

119 Macra St.  
Henry W. Rankin  
Oct 7 1903

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346  
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MR. SPEER  
SECRETARIES

My dear Mr. Speer;

A special claim of J. D. Taylor to lead your list is the fact that he originated the Philadelphia Socy at the College, and put into operation those influences, in some measure those methods, that now belong to the fully organized system of the YMCA, & the Volunteer Band. It is also an illustration of the connection with Missions work from the begin-

ning of the College students' work that the strongest impulse to the development of Taylor's character & influence & may probably be found in the impression made upon his mind by the first departure of an American Medical Missionary from New York - the first John Scudder; who abandoned a popular practice in this City, with all the endeared & flattering associations of home, to make the first plunge into Hindu darkness. Made by any man going from this country (?) Another claim of

Taylor lies in these further facts: he entered college considerably beyond the usual age in his time because he had first spent some years in business. During this preliminary business life he exemplified the character and work that properly belong to a young Christian man in that sphere. He was a N. York clerk like many present members of the N. York Y. M. C. A. Then going to the Lawrenceville Academy he further exemplified the kind of character & influence which may be lived in our American fitting school; so again in College, & then the Theol. Sem., But there is still another claim to remembrance. In those days all Churches but the Baptist & Methodist were practically as high Church as any Episcopalians. The dignity, prerogatives and official isolation of the clergy were extremely emphasized by Congregational & Presbyterian bodies.



Laymen had few rights & small recognition compared with what they have today: & for any layman to make a pulpit address, or deliver a sermon, was ~~at~~ exceedingly rare, and viewed with ~~by~~ an extremely jealous disapprobation by the great portion of the clergy. It was regarded as the height of presumption, if not sacrilege. I have the copy of a letter written by Jonathan Edwards to a young man in New Jersey, admonishing him with great severity for having ventured to make religious remarks before his elders in a church prayer meeting - not because he said anything amiss but because he said anything at all. D. L. Moody had not then lived, & fought his way through 20 years of public obloquy, to vindicate & demonstrate the rights & duties & privileges of laymen.

But young Taylor while retie

the academy & college, & before  
he was formally licensed to  
preach, like young Jeremiah,  
felt the word of God like a fire  
in his bones; & could not forbear,  
making school house addresses,  
and ~~such~~ using such opportunities  
as were awarded to his rare  
tact & wisdom for conducting  
evangelistic meetings in some  
churches, <sup>also</sup> - if I remember rightly.  
At all events he did a great  
deal of such preaching &  
inquiry work as belong properly  
to the clergy for some four or  
five years <sup>when</sup> ~~that~~ he was still a  
layman. The Quakers of course re-  
cognized all these rights, but  
the Baptist & Methodist exhorters  
were generally viewed with  
little favor in the dominant de-  
nominations - Episcopalian,  
Presbyterian & Congregational.  
Taylor was brought up an Episcopalian,  
educated in a Presbyterian college  
& at Yale Theol. Sem. .



He died before finishing his Sermon  
 Course, but he set ~~the set~~ the  
 key note for <sup>clerical</sup> piety in the United  
 States for the next fifty years.  
 Probably no biography of a religious  
 work was more read than  
 his in the three denomina-  
 tions named; & the leading  
 religious newspapers prior  
 to 1855 often published most  
 interesting illustrations of his  
 exceedingly high & extended influ-  
 ence. All available data re-  
 garding his career should be  
 collected while there are  
 still relatives & old people  
 & documents accessible for  
 aid. His biography in new  
 dress should ~~again~~ begin a  
 new cycle of noble influence.  
 By it many were first led to Christ;  
 but probably its appeal was  
 chiefly to professing believers,  
~~who~~ for whom it held up a mod-  
 ern example of piety that seem-  
 ed to reproduce the apostolic  
 ideal. It was this ideal that

wrought so powerfully on Bowen during his Theological Course; after his preliminary experience & reading had brought him to the point where the appeal of this ideal could best be felt.

Hamilton Murray I only saw casually a few times, but found him an exceedingly gentle, gracious, modest, quiet, man, serious, genuine, and decided in his Christian life. He was every bit a gentleman and a Christian, who was thoroughly respected and liked by the College. He returned from Europe on the Ville de France; and the last seen of him was on the deck of that ill-fated vessel, where he & his sister stood together, with their arms about each other (I think) calmly awaiting the end, as the ship went down to carry them through deep waters to the high & holy place where their true Father dwelt.



I hope you don't mean that  
Walter Louie of Pao ting ~~fan~~  
needs any obituary yet.

I have known him from his  
infancy; and during two  
years when he taught school  
in Madison I was thrown  
with him into intimate and  
delightful fellowship. For  
most of a year he & Double La  
ren & I were accustomed  
to take long walks together &  
to meet once a week for  
Bible study & prayer. That  
was the year in which Walter  
gave up ~~Law to study~~ for  
the purpose of studying Law,  
to enter the Seminary, and  
follow in his father's foot-  
steps. That father, Reuben,  
was greatly loved by my  
father & by Dr. Carter who  
attended his dying ~~bedside~~ <sup>moments</sup>  
in Shanghai.

I was of course considerably older than the two young teachers, having recently returned from a two years' futile search for health with all my ~~the~~ plans & studies broken off in 1878.

As to my father's ~~di~~ Journals, I will send & bring you soon the first two vols, which close just before he sailed for China. They cover the last half of his Seminary course, and his nine months' supply of the pulpit in Rochester prior to his departure for the East. He was very young for the work at that Church and the first volume shows some immaturity & the responsibilities of a city pastorate rapidly developed him; and also shows the great propaedeutic value of such an experience to any man going ~~to~~ a foreign field. In fact my father was very fortunate in the opportunities of thorough preparation given him. His own father



possessed all the means and  
 disposition to give every pos-  
 sible advantage to his children,  
 and all the family deeply sym-  
 pathized with my father's mis-  
 sionary aims. The best of homes,  
 a varied education & plenty of  
 travel and the invaluable ex-  
 perience in Rochester all helped  
 to fit him out. But in re-  
 viewing his and many other  
 careers of his own time one  
 thing that impresses me much  
 is this: the usual age of leav-  
 ing college was far younger  
 than it is today; & yet I can-  
 not detect any general dispari-  
 ty in the Scholastic or Moral  
 preparation for life of the grad-  
 uates fifty or sixty years ago,  
 as compared with those today.  
 Any Yale or Princeton Cata-  
 logue of that time will  
 contain long lists of names  
 easily recognized as those

of men who led their generation to the same extent, and in the same ways, as any who come after them. But the modern graduate of 23-5<sup>years in age</sup> does not appear to me any more mature in character, or any better scholar, than the former graduates of 17-9 years. My father entered the sophomore class in his fifteenth year, and was thoroughly prepared for the junior class; which he did not enter only because he was so young. But his whole class averaged far younger than the modern graduates do, and included Wm. C. Prime & Chas. T. Leland while Theodore Cuyler was in the class above - and many equal names can be recalled of that same period. I have more respect for <sup>The</sup> old college ideal of this



Country than for the West.  
Whether the instruction was  
good depended then, as now,  
upon the individual instruc-  
tor. But the aim then was  
to provide upon the perennial  
basis of the Classics & math-  
ematics such an epitome  
of all learning in its repre-  
sentative fields as should give  
every graduate a general con-  
spectus of the whole field of  
knowledge, and interest him in  
all its leading departments,  
without specializing before  
the time. All specializing  
was considered professional  
learning, which ought not to  
begin until such a general  
foundation had been laid  
in academic training as might  
properly constitute liberal edu-  
cation.

What you say of needless dupli-  
cation & repetition in mission

Work seems to me characteristic  
of all public policy and most  
individual history. We all  
know that history is philosophically  
teaching by example; but those  
who deliberately study the past  
in order to improve the present  
are few & far between. Most of  
us pick up what we can by  
mumbling on with our own  
experiences regardless of the lessons  
of the past. It is so in the church  
& in the State, and in the private  
career of most persons.

Now have I any doubt that the  
high value which the Chinese  
place upon their own best  
ideals & methods of the past,  
which had much in them of  
intrinsic ~~value~~ worth, has much  
to do with the persistent vitality,  
homogeneity and autonomy of  
that wholly unexampled race.

I have been studying the parallel  
history of China & Japan these



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history of China & Japan these



4  
two years back; and the farther  
I get into the 'life of China the  
more instructive it appears,  
the more valuable to history  
for all mankind, - the more  
unmistakable the divine Pro-  
vidence displayed in that  
history, & the more amazingly  
unique it is. Japanese his-  
tory is also full of interest  
- but it is childish compared  
with that of China. It was  
Dr McCarter's mature conviction  
that physically, intellectually &  
morally, the Chinese people at  
large were very much, & very  
obviously, superior to the Japanese,  
and certainly if the qualities of  
the two peoples may be judged  
by comparing point for point  
their parallel histories for  
2,000 years this conclusion  
is beyond all reasonable question.

My father's journals from 1846 to 1863 probably contain much material, bearing upon the whole development of the mission work in China. They give the everyday life, and state the ever recurring questions <sup>which</sup> ~~that~~ belong to that sphere of labor.

The golden days of Ningbo ended with the rebel occupation of that city in 1861-2 (Dec 9 - May 10) and the rapid development of Shanghai after this as a commercial & missionary center. This period also coincided pretty nearly with a general change in the entire personnel of the mission. ~~The~~ My father left it for Shanghai April 28, 1863, where the Nevins & McCartees were already settled; leaving only new, young missionaries behind him. He left it with the utmost regret,



Having his health ruined by the exposures, and cares of the Tai-ping period. During that time he was the Senior member of the mission left in Ningpo, & his house was the principal rendezvous of all the other missionaries English & American. It was an awful experience to go through of cruelty, blood & waste & ruin; while, as usual in such places, the American Consul without the missionaries' help would have been utterly useless and incapable of accomplishing anything. After three years of recuperation & hard work at Chefoo & de Carlee was again in Ningpo from Sept 1865 to March 1869 when health again drove him to the U.S. His last residence there was from Dec 1870 to Feb 1872, when he was driven out, if ever a man was, by the iniquitous & contemptible jealousy of the three young men who had succeeded to the management of that mission; & who were quite unwilling to learn anything from the experience of the foregoing years in that work.

From the day that Dr. McFarlee left Wipiko in 1872, the Presb. Mission lost all its old prestige. How he went, & what memories he left behind, are very justly told in the native tribute written 30 years after his departure.

Yes, the Fathers did not know what we know, & we are fumbling over problems today <sup>do</sup> for which good solutions are indicated by the experience of the past. Every word that you say of this true.

Many missionaries are too local in their engagements, & limited alike in their routine reading, to be able properly to coördinate the data of a wide survey; and yet there is no class of men with so large a proportion of members possessing an extremely wide & varied experience ~~with~~ & an equal breadth of sympathy.

There is some valuable literature still buried in manuscript - of more informing vol- than most



that sets into print. I believe that  
 when you come to examine closely  
 by the bound volume of Dr de Carter's  
60 letters, now so much  
 more accessible than at first  
 for consecutive reading, you  
 will find in them many care-  
 ful studies of mission problems,  
 with solutions suggested on  
 a basis of exceptionally wide  
 observation and experience.  
 Some of his younger associates  
 in Japan with ~~the~~ a far smaller  
 range of data for comparison were  
 ready to think him incompetent  
 to judge of ~~matters~~ missionary  
 matters in Japan. But I venture  
 to believe that these are very  
 few of his more distinct con-  
 clusions which you will  
 not approve when you  
 examine them in their order  
 & connection. These letters,  
 & all of my father's journals,  
 will be at your discretionary

use so soon as my task is done.  
But until then I need them  
for much reference. Regarding  
the journals, there are things in  
them of which no public use  
should be made while my  
mother & her sister still survive.  
There are other things that  
might be serviceable & desira-  
ble for earlier publication.  
But the chief value of the records  
will be for your private  
study. I am disposed to think  
that ultimately they should go  
to the library of either the Mis-  
sion Board or the Princeton Semina-  
ry - I hardly know which. I in-  
cline to say the Princeton library;  
but leave that question until  
after you have examined them.  
I have spoken of them to Mr  
Dulles (J.H.) who promises good  
care of them in Princeton if they  
go there. Probably we can  
decide this matter while  
I live to consider it further.



If not I shall leave it to your  
best judgment. What you say  
of mushroom partizanship &  
historic comprehension is ex-  
actly to my mind.

To do justice to the career of one  
man I have made a careful  
study of the history of two nations;  
because his career touched ~~all~~  
the new interests of those two  
nations at every leading point;  
and in time precisely coinci-  
ded with the whole modern  
Far East Cycle <sup>lying</sup> between the Treaty  
of Nanjing & the Siege of Legations;  
& ~~with~~ the full recognition of Japan  
among the ~~active~~ powers of the  
day. And because he was here  
& there everywhere, doing some  
thing at every point for many  
years it was impossible for  
any of his friends to while he yet  
lived to understand the complete  
ness even of his life. Some who  
can only do one or two kinds of work  
well, think that no one can do  
well more than their number -  
as if God had made all men alike.

And as if it did not take as much constancy & persistence to do many things well as one when all are done under the impelling force of a single & continuous motive. Not every man who is versatile is therefore superficial & vacillating in his life; but God himself has made all kinds of men, & gives grace for all kinds of work. But the men who combine great fidelity with versatility, & great love with their labors, are of ~~the~~ Old men the best qualified to coördinate in plan & execute the entire range of missionary effort.

~~The~~ In collecting material for one biography some book, I have been led on soon until I have gathered the material for four books. I wd not have dared, in my condition, at the outset, an undertaking of this scope. What led me so far afield is that some of the facts I wanted to use first have been the last to reach me



6.

Until they were found I did not want to conclude the biography. I am now reading the very last book that I shall touch ~~before~~ all the writing is done for the biography & two other projects. This involves a reversion, as I have already told you, to my original plan for the biography; which is to finish it in one volume, adding little besides the strictly biographical data, with documentary material in an appendix, & full index. The long Chapter long since written on Character & Equipment must, with some revision, go into a distinct book if at all. ~~But~~ Not only is all the material in hand, but, ~~as~~ in the rough, all the writing is done for that and a third book, or half of a fourth. The second of these would consist of three long chapters only, of which Character

"Equipment" would form the backbone of the book. This book would be designed to exhibit by a strictly analytic method an Epitome of the missionary enterprise in the concrete example of one comprehensive career. It would show in this one man  
I What He Did (in Six Deeds)  
II What He Was (under Seven Heads)  
III What He Thought (under Seven Heads)

What a man thinks is both cause & consequence of what he is & what he does; in taking up Dr. McCarter's leading conclusions at six points, I wish to show<sup>(1)</sup> the paramount conclusions of a man whose experience, learning & methods of study made his judgment, in more important matters, eminently worthy of consideration. (2) ~~But~~ These conclusions are not those wherein he most differed, but wherein he most agreed with missionaries at large, the world over; & especially with



those Far East Missionaries who  
have had the largest <sup>comparative</sup> knowledge  
of Far East countries. (3) These 6  
conclusions show in good measure  
how the <sup>prevailing</sup> ~~total~~ bearings of mis-  
sionary thought ~~to~~ six urgent  
questions of the present time —  
questions that interest the whole  
world of Occidental scholar-  
ship and International Politics.

- vis: (1) Theism (vs Agnosticism &c)  
(2) Creation (vs Evolution &c)  
(3) Bible (vs Criticism &c)  
(4) Ethnic Religions (vs Modern views  
of them)  
(5) Outcome of Missions (2<sup>d</sup> Advent  
&c)  
(6) China & Japan (their mutual  
relations & prospects)

All this to be preceded by  
some short remarks on A Man's Views.

Perhaps the book may be called:

Divis Bellinus M<sup>c</sup>Cartee M<sup>D</sup>

An Epitome of Missions

In Three Chapters



The next book almost finished  
may be made up of two very  
long articles from the Bib. Sacra,  
of which the first will appear  
when the Editor gets ready (pos-  
sibly this month) and the next  
is almost ready to send him.

These chapters will be head-  
ed: What is a Missionary Good for  
Any How?

I<sup>st</sup> Art. The Story of Dr. McCar-  
tee's Almanac;

II<sup>nd</sup> Art. The Lookloo Affair,  
and its Meaning Today.

The Story of the Almanac is a string  
of my beads by which to show

- (1) The large results of small be-  
ginnings in many fields;
- (2) The incidental value of missions  
to civilization as seen in the lives  
of McCarlee, Martin, Williams  
Verbeek, Brown & all
- (3) How the modern Native Merchant  
Marine of China, & the establish-  
ment of the first modern legation of China  
in Japan grew out of Dr. McCar-  
tee's Almanac.

The next article shows the initial



events in the modern relations  
 of China & Japan; events that  
 were fraught with tremendous  
 issues later on, & still to come;  
 Events, that are profoundly in-  
 structive for those nations &  
 all concerned, if men should  
 really choose to profit by the  
 lessons of history. There is not a  
 development in this latest  
 crisis of the Far East which <sup>is</sup> not  
 intimately related to those ini-  
 tial events; and their value to  
 the future, will be exactly pro-  
 portioned to the degree in which  
 they are understood. The saving  
 element in those initial events,  
 that in them which saved the  
 moral position of Japan, and  
 argues best for the future rela-  
 tions of Japan & China, belonged  
 to the part taken by two Amer-  
 ican citizens, Genl Grant & Dr  
 McFarlee, representing at its  
 very best the spirit of American  
 Diplomacy in the Far East.

But of these two men it was the  
 part taken by Dr McFarlee, before  
 & after the official statement of the

Japanese claims to Loochoo, that gave both direction and efficacy to the part taken by Earl Grant. The record in the memoir is far too brief & reticent to make this plain, to any but the Japanese officials concerned. ~~But~~ The data of this affair have made the chief occasion of my long delay in completing the memoir. The whole affair requires separate treatment such as can be given in a separate & independent volume, of which the value would <sup>largely</sup> consist in its immediate bearings on the situation of the East today. Perhaps to these two chapters may be added my article publ'd in 1899; which has been confirmed by all subsequent developments, and may with slight addition be made serviceable again.

The fourth book which I would like to finish, and which already is half done, excludes entirely the biographical factor, & is wholly political - based on a comparative study of the parallel histories of the two leading countries of the Orient.

Among all the books written upon these countries I have not seen <sup>a</sup> one that attempts to pass a judgment on their relative merits, faults, conditions & prospects, based upon a strict comparison of this sort. This project ~~would~~ <sup>may</sup> be called: "China & Japan Among the Nations" - seven chapters:

- I Introduction
- II The Story of Origins
- III The Story of Empire
- IV Government, Education & Religion
- V The Policy of Europe
- VI The Policy of the United States
- VII The Concord of Japan & China.





You may ask: Why I have carried  
on these four projects together,  
& not taken them successively?  
Because, altho' the work kept  
growing, it was long before  
I saw that it could not pos-  
sibly be all comprised in the  
project that came first. I was  
collecting the facts that illustrate  
one man's career, & that are  
illustrated by his career. But  
not long since I began to see  
that four small separate books  
were better than one big one;  
& that the biography must be dis-  
engaged from many of these re-  
lated deductions, & the material  
which they represent.

Meanwhile I have been in  
miserable health, with no pros-  
pect of permanent relief; never  
one night of sound sleep, nor  
one waking hour without bodily  
distress - & a head like lead.  
Nothing but love & prayer has  
kept me up and  
given me on.

What are my present prospects?  
 In the course of a few weeks I  
 shall probably undergo another  
 surgical operation ~~that~~ which I hope  
 will keep me afloat another  
 12-month in no worse state  
 than my last. Meanwhile  
 I intermit no day of with  
 my task - except to write a  
 letter - occasionally long, like  
 this. I expect to send off the  
 second article to the Bib. Sac.  
 within one month, at the  
 outside, or before my next opera-  
 tion. The operation will delay  
 me some three weeks. Imme-  
 diately then I shall finish up  
 the biography (S.V.) which is al-  
 most entirely written in the  
 rough. I can fairly hope to have  
 it ready by Xmas for the printer.  
 With that done I shall  
 breathe more freely. Six  
 months of no worse health  
 than this I now enjoy(?)

Should enable me to have <sup>at least</sup> three  
of these projects in press or en-  
tirely ready for publication.  
Twelve months should com-  
plete the final project of the  
four, in all which my hope  
is to ~~the liter~~ make some  
real contribution to the litera-  
ture of Missions, and the  
~~the~~ solution of the Far East  
problems. If justice may  
be done to these questions  
& to this man I can die  
happy - anyhow, by the grace  
of God, I shall die game.

I have burdened you with  
all these matters because  
from the beginning you have  
been concerned in the matter;  
as you are in all the public  
interests involved. And if my  
wasting efforts should be  
disappointed you will be



able to make the explanations,  
and to take charge of my  
material.

Very truly  
yours

Henry W. Rankin.

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Oct 7 - 1908

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SECRETARIES

My Dear Mr. Speer

The memoir of which you were so kind as to send me I have read, and return to your address with the two first volumes of my father's journals now by mail. It is a pity that the memoir was not prepared when its compiler was a younger man, & had a fine theme, and made nothing but a scrap book out of it; though the material thrown together is interesting; especially the short bit of autobiography. Although the journal books begin first with 1846, yet in a later volume contains a similar bit of autobiography, in which my father makes a happy beginning, and summarizes the facts of <sup>his</sup> later life, together with the earlier journals which he probably destroyed.

His whole record is complete  
except for his first year &  
a half in Theology, of which  
the year was taken at Au-  
burn. This is probably the  
portion that can be spared;  
~~but~~ though whether he ever  
wrote it out I cannot learn  
from the material in hand.

From the first sentence in the  
book for 1846 I infer that  
he had intermitted the prac-  
tice <sup>of keeping a journal</sup> for some time, altho  
he had begun it with his  
conversion in Jan. 1842.

The summary of large & colorful  
life is deeply interesting, &  
extremely well told. Though  
much in a strain that would  
have suited John Bunyan.

For my father had a deep old  
fashioned conviction of sin,  
<sup>of for a long time</sup> the troubling, wistful faith  
without assurance, charac-  
teristic of so much in the  
old school Calvinistic training.  
Most of my books are in North



field hard to get at - or such  
as are left of them - & possibly  
I have left one volume of the  
Journal there because written  
in a shorthand which I could  
not read. The two vols that  
I send you cover the time  
from Jan 1846 to Aug 2, 1848  
- or two months before he sailed  
for China. That was exactly  
fifty five years ago today, the  
9<sup>th</sup> of October, 1848. The record  
completes the Seminary course,  
shows a three months western  
tour, & the 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  months of actual  
service in Rochester (not 9 as  
I wrote you last) but a very  
full & important period; &  
the last preparations for sail-  
ing. His act of dedica-  
tion to the Missionary work  
occurs on pp 38-47 of the first  
vol. Sept 11, 1846, act 21. This  
is the part that I think may  
interest you most in these  
two books. His first hope  
was to go to India, and the

first direction of his thoughts to China  
as his own field ~~was made~~  
by came from H. & W. Loring  
in a conversation of March  
24. 1847. This however was only  
a suggestion. In Dec of that year  
the first news came of the  
murder of W. M. Loring at which  
time the Board immediately be-  
gan to consider him as the  
proper successor to W. M. Loring.  
But this was unknown to him  
until he left Rochester, and  
visited the Mission rooms  
May 10, 1848. when his appoint-  
ment occurred. This is the  
next date of special interest  
after the act of dedication,  
& shows again ~~the~~ his careful  
balancing of all matters to  
be considered. But interest-  
ing marks of Providence appear  
in the whole record when con-  
secutively read, and in ~~these~~  
after all the interest attaching  
to any life culminates - first  
heredity, then surroundings, then  
personal initiative, & then Pro-  
vidence. For the sum of these

# which is more of general interest

four factors seems to me to be equal to the sum of every man's life; not one, not two, nor three alone, but all of the four.

The reason for the existence of the whole record to the end of ~~life~~ his life is given in the first sentence of the first volume. All of the later volumes

show more maturity, of course, than these two which do not quite reach his 23<sup>d</sup> birthday. #

But where are the men of 23 years today equally fitted with many of the earlier American & English missionaries to go upon the foreign field?

W. M. Lowie was also just 23; & Dr. C. Carter, not yet 24, had practised medicine for three years already ~~three~~ <sup>after</sup> graduation.

I think there's a vast amount of nonsense talked about the new movements of education.

You may keep these two volumes unless I call for them



~~until~~ I until I had the  
others, when my task is done.  
But I do not wish to part  
with them permanently while  
I continue to live on this  
moon lit plane. My father's  
theology was strictly moulded  
upon the Princeton pattern of  
those days, and he was largely  
blind to any necessity of <sup>its</sup> improve-  
ment, except in the matter of  
the 2<sup>d</sup> Advent. Like W. M. Low-  
rie before him, & John L. Nevins  
after him, he labored with  
that question for some years  
before committing himself  
fully to a millenarian  
position such as Dr. Fortescue  
had taken with him to  
China. Iv I think it has  
happened times without  
number. This question  
is often forced upon the  
missionary in a more  
thipression way than com-  
monly at home. He is driven

to reconsider all his first  
teachings & impressions.  
In Nings I think that more  
than half of the missionaries  
English & American believe  
that Christ will come to inaugurate  
us rather than merely  
consecrate the future of the  
age of earth. I suppose  
that a large proportion of ~~them~~  
of the best missionaries in  
India & China hold this  
view; but I would like to  
know what the proportion is  
in all fields. What can  
you tell me? I learned the  
Westminster Catechism word  
for word, but never once  
accepted it as other than  
a very imperfect symbol  
of faith. My father's reading  
was generous for his years  
as appears from other indi-  
cations than his journals; but  
I think it was not generous  
in the field of Theology, but

pretty strictly limited to the lines  
of his own orthodoxy. For me  
orthodoxy is nothing but an  
ideal - an approximation of  
all degrees to an adequate  
statement of the teachings of  
Scripture.

In Unitarianism  
& Romanism he saw little of  
the good & much of the evil;  
and was scarcely acquainted  
at all with the new litera-  
ture & philosophy of Germany  
& New England. He did not realize

in part that his own theology had  
itself  
inevitably caused the modern  
reactions, & that much might  
be said for some of the protests  
that he abhorred. But within  
in these limits his Christian  
character grew ever more  
sweet & kind & strong to the  
last, ready with all self-  
sacrifice. In other depart-  
ments of thought he was far  
from narrow; but well  
represented for his class the  
best Princeton culture of that  
day, and a home that was



3  
full of the best English Literature, & a wide range of social  
affinities. In both College &  
Seminary there were some men  
as strong for their time as any  
to be had today; & the City  
Churches were supplied with  
preachers whose preaching  
would be a blessed exchange  
for the chaff we are getting  
plentifully now.

occur to me

Two other points, worth noting  
in the life of Jas D. Taylor.  
~~occur~~ Like many students  
who grow full of zeal to  
preach the gospel he was  
strongly tempted to neglect  
his studies, or even to stop  
them short, in the interest  
of direct religious work.

That problem he worked  
through with great care:  
concluding with the <sup>old</sup> con-  
servative view that on  
no account should the oppor-  
tunities of a full education

be disregarded, or thrown  
away. - ~~The~~ No man could  
I surpass him in religious zeal,  
yet he took the benediction  
of his class, & except during  
his vacations did not go  
to any excess in religious  
activities of a public sort.

I think he must have injured  
his health by an amount of  
frequent fasting that was  
wholly mistaken; though  
what the sickness was  
that took him off I never  
could make out from the  
description. I would like  
to get the opinions of some  
good Christian physicians  
of our time.

A second matter worth re-  
call is this: On page 95  
of the small edition of the  
Biography is a comment by  
the writer Dr J. H. Rice, which  
might have come from the

Leips of Henry & Remond :

"The relation between Cause & effect is as fully established in spiritual as in physical affairs" — and this generalization is given as a legitimate deduction from the whole religious experience & work of Saylor. The modern instance on all persuading hand is modern only in Mirasology. It was in the old Christian theology that this conception was first developed of which the world now boasts itself so much; and it was so developed because, first of all, it lies written on the face of all the Scriptures from beginning to end. Every great result — the chief results — of modern science are anticipated in the Holy Book, either by express intimation, implicit bearing, or the omission of all that contradicts. I believe that the scientific values of Scripture are tenfold greater than



more astonishing than they have  
yet been shown to be; and  
that in the following statement  
by Dr Shields a wholly just  
& warranted estimate of the  
Bible has been made:

"The Old & New Testament Scrip-  
tures will be found to have  
been projected as with an om-  
niscient view of the whole  
possible future, as well  
as of the whole actual part  
of human Science." (Phil.  
Ultima II: 458.)

"Moreover" The Bible was  
simply designed to teach  
whatever on due examination  
it is found to teach." (II. 456  
I. 232)

Read Taylor's biography with this  
comment of the writer in  
mind, & compare it with  
Drummond's Short Chautau  
Society address, or his first book,  
or his last Edinburgh talks  
to students.

~~The Memoir of W. L. Bowie~~

be glad to know about  
it; and I want to  
know all I can of this  
& other Chinese collections  
in this country.

The Hk. Pa. collection was  
founded by Dr. J. J. Wilson.  
Whose books ~~were~~ serve  
as a nucleus of all  
future additions in Far  
East languages.

The time will soon be  
at hand when these  
collections will cease  
to be mere curiosities;  
and I think a published  
Statement should be  
made, where it will  
be read, regarding the  
Chinese books belong-  
ing to the Presby Board.  
Who knows anything

about them; and why  
should they not be put  
into some connection  
or correspondence with  
all ~~the~~ other leading  
librarians? Is not his  
talent hid in a napkin?

Yes, truly yes  
It may be Pauline

It was not because I  
was talking about my  
work & design in the  
McCartee Memoir that  
I wrote you so fully in  
my last; but because I  
feel responsible to ex-  
plain my delay, and you  
are a more pleasant re-  
cipient of the explanation.  
It would be much pleasanter  
for me to say nothing about the  
matter to anyone till the work is done.



The Thematic of Mr. Towner  
speaks of an extended library  
collection of Chinese books  
- 2000 or more at the Miss  
Nou Rooms to made by  
W.L. & by J. W. C. Plymunt.

I would be grateful to have  
from Mr Grant a short  
Statement regarding the  
number of sources & Con-  
tents of this library - How  
how many books? What  
other Far East books &  
Chinese? What classi-  
fication & catalogues are  
available? Is it at  
all used by, or known  
to, Chinese scholars in  
this country? Why not  
add it to the collection  
at Columbia & Yale  
At the Univ. of Pa where  
it is more likely to be  
used? Prof. Hirth of  
Columbia would doubtless

Nov. 3rd, 1911.

Mr. H. W. Rankin,  
119 Macon St.,  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Rankin,

Your good letter of October 5th came just as I was starting off on a trip among the Western Synods, from which I returned last week. I am writing to Dr. Martin, sending him a copy of your letter, in the hope that he may be disposed to do what you suggest.

In your letter you speak of Dr. Mattoon as thinking that Dr. McCartee was the best qualified man in China to write Bible commentaries. I wonder whether you don't mean Dr. Mateer. There was a Dr. Mattoon in the Mission work of our Church, but he was in Siam.

I read your letter with the greatest interest, and only wish I had a fraction of your stock of knowledge of philosophy.

Very cordially yours,

H. W. Rankin 346  
119 Macco St  
RECEIVED  
OCT 7 1911

Dear Mr Speer Mr. Speer If Mr  
Luce ~~was~~ would not  
take the trouble to write me  
a few words about that  
book which he wanted  
very much to see, & had  
the use of for more than  
a year, he is not likely  
to hunt for another copy.  
He wrote me quite fully  
before he had seen the  
title of his ineffectual in-  
quiries to learn whether  
such a Gospel Harmony had  
ever been prepared in Man-  
darin. One had been written  
& was ready for the press  
when the MS was lost  
to the Boxers. I am  
surprised that all



Missionary authors should not be familiar with Alex. Hylie's invaluable Memoirs of Protestant Missionaries, & their publications prior to 1868.

This work may be out of print, but all the China Missionaries should know it well. Some of those earlier publications might well be reissued, with whatever improvements they may need. Dr. Mattoon thought Dr. McCartee the best qualified man in China to write Bible Commentaries, of which he had published one or two described in Hylie. Dr. Mattoon was very much vexed that Dr. McCartee would not stay in China to take up that work at the time of his going permanently to Japan.

I have Dr Malloans own  
 letter about this to me.  
 This wd indicate that  
 the commentary actually  
 publd by Drll Carter  
 might well be kept in  
 print. I think the best  
 additions to literary output  
 on the Mission field ought to  
 be based on a thorough ac-  
 quaintance with what had  
 gone before, & been already  
 done. I find this  
 ignorance of the historical  
 output a great injury to  
 American philosophical pro-  
 duction: which has been a  
~~far~~ with me a favorite  
 field of reading. It is <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~  
 taken for granted that na-  
 thing of any consequence  
 to philly was produced in  
 this country before the last  
 25 years in ~~the~~ logic, Ethics

Psychology or Ontology; but  
 at least a half dozen books  
 of intrinsic & permanent value,  
 besides many others of  
 historical significance to the  
 philosophical development  
 now in progress, ~~have~~  
 were pub'd in the century  
 before, books with which Am-  
 erican teachers & writers in  
 Phil. sh'd be well acquainted,  
 but are not. The founders  
 are forgotten, too often de-  
 spised out of pure ignorance  
 of the historical background.  
 Some of these earlier books  
 ought to be republ'd with  
 full apparatus of notes &  
 biographical introductions.  
 I would be found to ex-  
 tremely pertinent & service-  
 able to the same inquiries  
 as now pursued. Some highly  
 original <sup>work</sup> was done, now to-  
 tally ignored. Even the



5

x if properly cited.

priceless Philosophical Fragments left by Jonathan Edwards have never been published since 1829, & yet would attract more interest now than ever before.

The best general introduction to Philosophy ever issued in this country until that of Ladd 'in 1890 was the *Elementa Philosophica* of Samuel Johnson, 1752; published on Oley Franklin's Press, & not even mentioned by name in Allibone or in Moses Coit Tyler. ~~There is~~ To this statement there is one exception.

In 1844 Henry Philip Tappan who became first Pres of Michigan University (or Chan Celler) published a work in Logic, including a general

6

Intro to Philo. The Con-  
ception of Logic was the  
most comprehensive em-  
ployed by any American  
author to this day, in-  
cluding not only the usual  
discussion of the Syllogism,  
but a formal department  
of Inductive Logic (written  
before Mill had publ'd);  
& not only this but a  
preliminary discussion  
of what the author called  
Primordial Logic - which  
is really the Platonic Dia-  
lectic of logical antecedents  
as distinguished from the  
logical sequents - that belong  
to the Syllogism.

All this was preceded  
by a General Introduc-  
tion to all branches  
of metaphysical work,

making a treatise brief,  
 but very original, that  
 Colesin regarded with great  
 admiration, & said was  
 equal to anything of the  
 sort ever published in Eu-  
 rope. There was a revised  
 edn 12 years later, besides  
 Tappan's three books on  
the Will, repub'd in  
Scotland in one vol with  
 revision & enlargement  
 by the author; & all now  
 totally forgotten here, &  
 never referred to by new  
 writers on the Will who  
 don't begin to understand  
 the subject as well as  
 Tappan did. The whole  
 American literature of  
 the Will from Jonathan  
 Edwards to James Royce



abounds in original work that should be read in its historical connection to get the whole light available on this great subject.

But most of our recent writers think we have no national literature of importance here until they themselves began to write.

Until a French Roman Catholic priest thought that historical development of philosophy in this country of enough interest to write about it no American account of it existed, but a few scattered articles on individual authors of the greater treatment by Pres Parley in Heberweg. Now at last an elaborate history is in progress, of which one volume is out - all written from the view point of an absolute monism, which

is only a recrudescence of Oriental Pantheism, whereby the American mind is ~~fast~~ becoming paganiized as fast almost as the Orient gets Christianized. A scholar's view of theology is determined by his Philosophy every time; & if we can't have Philosophy Christian in a very distinctive & wholly valid sense we are done for. All our best early writers were decidedly Christian; & they wrote something of great importance to us still.

I will mention one more illustration of our ~~present~~ present ignorance of the past in these matters.

In that same year of 1844 (the year of Shields' graduation from college)

Samuel Tyler, of the Maryland bar, & long a professor of law in Washington, pub'd a Discourse on the Baconian Philosophy, which was a contribution to the problems of Inductive Logic more strictly original & valuable - as I believe - than any other modern work on that subject excepting Mill's. Mill himself, who pub'd in 1843, might have greatly profited by Tyler's book had he seen it; & most of Mill's book was written before Mill pub'd, & important portions of it had appeared in the Princeton Theological Review. But nobody in Princeton seems to know it.

Hibben has done fine work in this same field, & closes his manual with a



a historical sketch of the subject that ends with Mill, & does not name the American writer who anticipated Mill in the Princeton Review, published his book only a few months after Mill, & an enlarged edn a few years later.

Tyler & Tappan were strictly contemporary, & both wrote on Inductive Logic before Mill; & on all the other problems are complementary to each other<sup>†</sup>. Each man could have greatly improved his own work by knowing what the other man had done, before each man revised his own treatise. But there is nothing to show that either man had read the other.

† respectively, respectively the intuitional & empirical schools that so badly need each other.

Now you know what I  
 want done for Dr. C.  
 Carter's Diatessaron.  
 I want it read, & an ad-  
 equate account of it,  
 in the historical setting,  
 published in some period-  
 ical in China, & <sup>also</sup> sent to me;  
 — not merely as an ac-  
 commendation to me, but  
 to all the Missionaries  
 on the field, & to native  
 Christians.

If possible I wish that  
 might be done by Dr. Con-  
 bell, who I am sure  
 he'd be quite willing to  
 do it, if he had the  
 book. Or Dr. Martin  
 perhaps would do it, &  
 certainly could. He has  
 probably used the book a  
 good deal in former years

Perhaps you might secure  
two or more sound co-  
pies if ~~you~~ in writing  
to different men in  
China, north & south you  
put them on the spot.

Sincerely Yours

Henry W. Raddin.

Did I send you, before, this  
Circular of Dr Warren's bk.  
There is no more Carned Cox,  
mologist in the land - no not in  
Europe; & all that he writes Cox  
robustates that ~~the~~ general  
Weltanschauung of the Bible.  
which Huxley & his dupes suppose  
buried out of sight for all time.  
Harbers Weekly for Sept 16. last page,  
has a new statement on the Great  
Pyramid, of great interest & im-  
portance if correct, bearing on  
the whole mental status of  
man kind in the first centuries  
after the flood. Darwinian theology is  
storing up for itself a lot of humiliating  
retractions to be made in due time.



Oct. 3rd, 1911.

Mr. Henry W. Rankin,  
119 Macon St.,  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Rankin,

I was delighted to get your good long letter and to know that you were a little better than you had been. I trust that you may continue to gain and that you may find the quiet place in the country where you can do the work that is on your mind and heart with reference to Dr. McCartee and Dr. Shields. I think if the McCartee biography could be got out while many of those who knew him are still living, its circulation would be much easier than if it waits until these friends are gone. I have discovered this in connection with several recent biographies. It helps immensely in promoting the circulation of any book to have acquaintances or friends of the subject of the biography to help in making it known and in arousing interest in it.

I should think that Northfield or some other little New England town of that sort would be just what you would wish, although if the winter is too severe in New England, it would be very easy to find in Southern Pennsylvania or Maryland or further South some congenial little community where you could live cheaply,--and the further South you went probably the cheaper it would be --and where you could go forward with your work.

Mr. Luce was evidently the Shantung missionary you have in mind in connection with the Diatessaron. I remember that it was he who was to bring it home. I shall write to him, telling him your desire to have an estimate from him of the Diatessaron and Dr. McCartee's

Mr. Rankin - 2.

Oct. 3rd, 1911.

work upon it. I shall ask him if he knows of any available copies of the book.

With kind regards, I am,

Very cordially yours,

HENRY W. RANKIN  
119 MACON ST.  
BROOKLYN  
N. Y.

Sept 23 1876 RECEIVED 346

My dear Mr. Speer

Mr. Speer

Your note of yesterday is at hand, & I am glad to hear from you. Dr David Murray's article on Dr. Carter - or rather his second article was published in full & correctly in the Observer; & of that I suppose you have a copy. He had previously published a shorter article as an obituary in the Christian Intelligence. Both articles are valuable as the tribute of a friend who was intimately acquainted with the facts of which he wrote. Col Sheppard's article, of which you should have a correct type written copy, was published in an abbreviated form, & in my judgment much marred in its proper effect, in the



HENRY W. RANKIN  
119 MACON ST.  
BROOKLYN  
N. Y.

Missionary Review of  
the World; & doubtless  
you have both the ~~printed~~  
Printed & the Typewritten  
Copies. I did not wish  
it publ'd at all unless publ'd  
without alteration. It was  
accepted & set up first for the  
Record of the WK; but when  
the proof reached me I found  
the article so badly cut  
up that I complained; &  
Will Moody withdrew it from  
press. It was then accept-  
ed by Sel Pearson with the  
express understanding that  
it shd appear without alter-  
ation or not at all. But  
the printing was long delayed,  
& occurred during the  
absence of Mr Pearson in  
Europe. His father probably  
knew nothing of my under-  
standing with Sel, & wanted

HENRY W. RANKIN  
119 MACON ST.  
BROOKLYN  
N. Y.

to save space; so the article appeared in a shape that I think spoiled it, not only as a piece of writing, but as ~~a~~ <sup>available</sup> testimony from the only first hand witness competent to say much that Col Sheppard said. This testimony chiefly concerned Dr McFarlee's political function & value, as Dr Murray's article chiefly concerned the Educational & Scientific value & service. In both cases the testimony is from men who not only were intimate friends of Dr McFarlee, but were also very high officials of the Japanese Govt. personally acquainted with all the matters of which they wrote. These two tributes are sufficient to ~~set aside~~ the depreciatory estimates you ~~obtained~~ received

HENRY W. RANKIN  
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N. Y.

Men who at the several periods of Dr. McCarter's Civil Service in Japan were not his intimate friends, ~~and~~ & were not in a position to know <sup>the</sup> real extent & value of that service in any of the departments described by Dr. Murray & Col. Sheppard.

This is what makes the importance of Sheppard's article in its unaltered form, & I hope your copy will turn up. My only perfect copy was used in the *Messy Review*, & never returned, as a previous copy had been used up for the *Record of the Week*. But I believe Mrs. McCarter still has a copy, & Col. Sheppard, if he is still living. The article was reprinted in a pamphlet from the *Messy Review* - but it is so unsatisfactory to me that I have <sup>made</sup> no use of it.



HENRY W. RANKIN  
119 MACON ST.  
BROOKLYN  
N. Y.

It was all an accident,  
 & tho' very vexing, I blame  
 nobody. I was able to attend  
 Dr Piersons funeral, & was  
 glad of all you said. It was  
 all true. A little tribute was  
 made for me in the Observer of  
 June 15 - with some misprints  
 as I did not see the proof.  
 Now Deans himself is gone,  
 & I Conner - all good friends  
 & Exponents of Northfd, splendid  
 workmen in their own lines.  
 Two years ago I revisited  
 Northfd for the first time in ten.  
 I was there & at Hermon during  
 most of three months Aug<sup>15</sup>  
 25 to Nov 15. & the visit was  
 a great privilege. I am very much  
 an exile anywhere else, & here  
 very much a prisoner - but I am  
 the Lords prisoner, & there lies  
 my hope. That I may be spared  
 & strengthened to finish that  
 biography, has been my contin-  
 ual prayer all these ten years;  
 but altho the material is all

HENRY W. RANKIN  
119 MACON ST.  
BROOKLYN  
N. Y.

collected it has been  
so impossible for me  
to put it together here in  
Brooklyn. Until two years ago  
last February my state of  
health was always getting  
worse. I then had another  
operation, & since that my  
general condition has been  
much more comfortable,  
& I am able to get about  
much more easily. But  
my strength is little, & ~~it~~  
my chief ~~in~~ hindrance is  
a galled head that almost  
refuses to work. I can dash  
off letters, but to do careful  
work for the press in these  
surroundings is exceedingly  
hard. Since 1876 I have  
not had one night of sound  
sleep. This alone is enough  
to block all serious mental  
effort - especially as my  
standards of literary product

HENRY W. RANKIN  
119 MACON ST.  
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N. Y.

are not low, this in-  
surrender began in a  
partial cessation of the brain  
when I was half thro' a  
medical course, & has never  
been thrown off. Since then  
I have not known one day  
without a dull headache  
uninterrupted, & a perpetual  
hum noise in the brain like a  
cricket on the hearth, or a busy  
saw ~~of~~ in a distant mill.

With this handicap, I have  
done such work as has been  
possible in these years: but  
it is hard to concentrate the  
mind under these conditions,  
especially at this noisy corner.  
If I knew of just the right  
place to stay elsewhere, or  
in the country, I could, <sup>now</sup> leave  
this house. After my last  
operation I moved to a  
neighboring house. But a year  
ago August the landlord claimed  
the house on three days' notice.  
I had to pack in a hurry, &



HENRY W. RANKIN  
119 MACON ST.  
BROOKLYN  
N. Y.

8  
put in storage the  
accumulated books &  
papers of these ten years  
in Bklyn. On returning  
from Northfd I came back  
to this sanitarium, wholly  
uncertain how long I should  
stay, & leaving my things  
in storage for want of space  
here. I need a quiet,  
pleasant country place, with  
room to spread out my be-  
longings in accessible shape  
& surroundings favorable to  
my task if it is to be done.  
This house is ~~surrounded~~<sup>in</sup>  
by a perpetual din of  
trolley & elevated cars, & I am  
terribly tired of it. Just  
yet I don't know where to go.  
For several reasons I can  
not go to Madison - that  
is, I could not expect to  
do any work there. Perhaps  
I shall get back to Northfd

HENRY W. RANKIN  
119 MACON ST.  
BROOKLYN  
N. Y.

I don't want to go continually among strangers; ~~not~~ many places are not suitable to my state of health & means, that wd otherwise serve. But I hope soon to find a place where I can do a little regular work to advantage; & finish the two undertakings that make so strong a demand upon my heart, the Memoir of Dr McCarter & justice to Dr Shields. The Christian, Scholars of this Country don't begin to know what Shields would do for them if they wd give him a chance - the immeasurable value of his neglected work to the pressing necessities of the Theology & Philology in these chaotic times. His own colleagues & students never troubled themselves to know

HENRY W. RANKIN  
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BROOKLYN  
N. Y.

what he was doing; & his magnificent life-work was shamefully & culpably prejudged. I know of one man only who appreciated Shields' value as a thinker — now that Robert Flint is dead; but he is no small man, ~~for~~ no less than Caspar René Gregory: who when I was at college in Princeton was intimately associated with Shields, while helping Chas Hodge prepare his theology for the press. If Flint had learned Shields' value ten years sooner he would have published an estimate that would have made all Princeton for the first time wake up to its neglect & duty in the matter of Shields — a man who appreciated the work of every man about him with a justness & generosity that



HENRY W. RANKIN  
119 MACON ST.  
BROOKLYN  
N. Y.

Not one of them showed  
toward him. Find me  
a place where I can be  
sufficiently comfortable to  
renew my strength & work to  
advantage, & I will soon for-  
give the memoir, & then pay  
back my obligations to my  
beloved & noble teacher  
Shields. I confess to a great  
indignation at the way he  
was treated; & I think his  
values can be made so ob-  
vious & great, that those  
who so treated him will  
be exceedingly ashamed, &  
begin to build ~~to build~~ the  
tomb of the prophet whom  
they slew with an un-  
warranted & contemptible  
reflect. Had he rec'd a tenth  
part of the consideration  
due, the encouragement he  
deserved, his principal treatise  
would not be today

\* (after his first complete reading of the 3 vols.)

HENRY W. RANKIN  
119 MACON ST.  
BROOKLYN  
N. Y.

The unrevised fragment that he left it. But unrevised fragment tho it be, with many minor imperfections, it is the most important & original piece of Constructive work in truly Christian philosophy that the 19th Century produced; & it opens the way, as no other book, to a normal adjustment of the relations between Christian theology as a valid science, & all other sciences concerned in the Welt-Anschauung.

Robert Flint saw this; for he accepted the estimate of my preliminary papers; & fully intended to prepare his own. But his failing health, & sad bereavement interfered.

Every day I plead with God for time & strength & means & grace to finish my testimony to the work of his dear servants Dr McCarlee & Dr Shields; & I have a strong conviction

HENRY W. RANKIN  
119 MACON ST.  
BROOKLYN  
N. Y.

That he will grant my  
prayer. I grieve at the  
delay, chiefly because of his  
widow my aunt, & those other  
aged servants of God who  
wait & grieve for me.  
Give me your prayers.

During March-April I rec'd  
a letter from Fredk. McCormick,  
a Foreign Correspondent then  
in New York, requesting informa-  
tion about Dr. Carter, say-  
ing he had been directed to me  
by the Presby Bd. I sent him  
some facts, but also told him  
of the printed material at  
the Bd rooms, which he after-  
ward read, finding all he  
wanted. I particularly  
mentioned Sheppard's article  
as the source most con-  
cerned with McCormick's  
quest. Do you suppose he  
could have borrowed this  
not returned it?



HENRY W. RANKIN  
119 MACON ST.  
BROOKLYN  
N. Y.

I also directed him to the Geographical Society with its sole copy of Dr. de C. Cartee's invaluable pamphlet on the Loo Choo matters. (which I have hoped to reprint with the memoir) & to the Astor Library, in whose file of the Tokio Times occur important references to this document, & the whole dispute, & with the whole official statement of the Japanese Government — made for Genl Grant — to which this pamphlet is a crushing reply couched in terms of the utmost courtesy. The Loo Choo Affair is the initial point of departure in all the modern diplomatic relations of China & Japan, or that of the Maria Luz Affair in both of which Dr. de Cartee had a leading part to play. These events project their

HENRY W. RANKIN  
119 MACON ST.  
BROOKLYN  
N. Y.

Shadows forward upon all subsequent transactions between these countries to this day; & all just understanding of the war with China & the present status must begin with a thorough understanding of these initial events - to say nothing of the whole parallel history that goes before. I know nothing of Mr. Cornish except that he has publ'd some good papers on Far East matters, but I suppose he wd naturally be much interested in the sources mentioned. I trust he is an honest man; for I imagine that pamphlet cd be very easily abstracted from the Library that owns it.

[You may remember the singular fortunes of Dr. McCarter's Dialectarian in Mandarin - which was the first large portion of Scripture publ'd as a volume in that language.

HENRY W. RANKIN  
119 MACON ST.  
BROOKLYN  
N. Y.

It did good service in  
the first days of our mis-  
sion at Peking, & went thro  
several editions. It is de-  
scribed in Ogilby's bibliography  
of all the missionary publi-  
cations prior to 1867. A copy  
was found for me at Ningpo  
by Mr Shoemaker - a sound  
clean copy which I greatly  
prized. I wanted Dr Corbett's  
estimate of this book after a  
fresh examination, & sent  
my copy to China for him  
to see by the hand of a  
missionary then going who  
meant to deliver it imper-  
son, I think. By some mis-  
take it was remailed to me  
from Shanghai without going  
to Dr Corbett. I then mailed  
it directly to him, who ac-  
knowledged it & was delighted  
to see it, & would have done  
as I requested; but he was  
just on the point of visiting



HENRY W. RANKIN  
119 MACON ST.  
BROOKLYN  
N. Y.

This Country. I think  
you told me of a news  
work of this kind in progress  
by a Mr Lucas (?) to whom  
I wrote. He had never even  
heard of Dr de Carter's volume  
& wanted to see it. So I  
asked Mr Corbett to let Mr  
Lucas take it for six months  
to make a careful exami-  
nation, & write out for me  
a brief account of it.

I heard no more of it un-  
til Mr Lucas himself came  
to this Country, when I recd  
the bk by mail in a badly  
damaged condition, with  
no acknowledgment, & no  
description — a fact for  
which I see no good rea-  
son. Mr Lucas (if that is  
his name) had kept the book  
a year or two — I forget how  
long. He must have used

HENRY W. RANKIN  
119 MACON ST.  
BROOKLYN  
N. Y.

it in preparing his  
own volume. He then  
returns it to me without a  
word of explanation, while  
the expert opinion to obtain  
which I sent the bk to China  
is still wanting. I don't  
you think you could obtain  
that for me yet from  
some body? I want two  
more clean good copies  
of the bk if they can be  
found in Shanghai, Shan-  
tung or Ningpo; but I par-  
ticularly <sup>want</sup> a description & es-  
timate from Dr Corbett,  
if a copy can be found  
for him, & from Mr Lucas  
who examined it.

Of course Dr McCarter's book  
was a first attempt in  
that line, & doubtless shows  
some imperfections, but it  
was a notable achievement

HENRY W. RANKIN  
119 MACON ST.  
BROOKLYN  
N. Y.

in its day, & deserves  
to be remembered in  
the history of Xty in China.  
*Look up Wylie's account of it.*

Please pardon my tedious  
length & imposition on  
your crowded time -

Sincerely yrs

Henry Wm Rankin.

My papers & memoranda  
have all been out of  
reach so long that I  
may have forgotten the right  
name of the Shantung mis-  
sionary whom I call Lucas



There is a won-  
derful new state-  
ment about the  
Great Pyramid  
in Harpers Weekly  
Sept 16 - last page  
—very important  
if true: for its  
bearing on the  
early Record in  
Genesis.



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September 22nd, 1911.

Mr. Henry W. Rankin,

119 Macon Street,

Brooklyn, New York.

My dear Mr. Rankin:

In going over a box of biographical material yesterday, in order to find some other biographical notes which Dr. Hopburn wrote out for us some years ago, and which are now called for in view of his death the day before yesterday in Orange, I found your revised copy of David Murray's paper on Dr. McCartee, which you gave me for our files here, together with a great deal of other material which you had sent us from time to time, but not your revised copy of the Sheppard article. I have made an extended search for it, and know that it must be somewhere in the files, but it has been filed away so securely that I have not been able to locate it as yet. If I succeed in doing so, I shall be glad to send it to you.

What is the present status of the biography? Do you anticipate its publication in the near future?

I hope that your health is such that you are able to move about some and to do a little of your tasks each day.

Your sincere friend,

Enclosure.

FILING DEPT.

SEP 6 1912

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Aug. 20th, 1912.

Mr. H. W. Rankin,

St. John's Hospital,

Brooklyn, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Rankin,

Your card of August 19th to Mr. Speer has been received in his absence on vacation in Northern New Hampshire, where he has been since early in August. He will be sorry to learn, on his return at the end of the month, of the accident you have had.

If any book comes for you from China, we shall at once forward it to your Macon Street address.

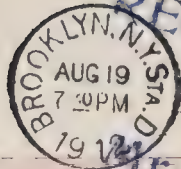
I trust you may rapidly recover now and that your convalescence may be attended with as little discomfort as possible.

Very faithfully yours,

J  
Secretary to Mr. Speer.



St Johns Hospital ~~Brooklyn~~  
N.Y. Aug 19. 1914. Dear Dr. Speer  
You probably read recd my  
card in reply to your note  
of inquiry, telling of my acci-  
dent. I shall probably be  
out of the hospital in 5 weeks  
or sooner. If my book reach  
the rooms from China for  
me please forward to 119  
Macque St. Dr. Martin has stat-  
ed his latest. I have found  
the caleseron. Will write on getting



RECEIVED



20 1912

Mr. Speer.

Mr Robert E Speer  
New York City  
156 Fifth Ave

FILING DEPT.

MAY 1 1912

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April 30th, 1912.

Mr. H. W. Rankin,

119 Meccn St.,

Brooklyn, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Rankin,

Our Librarian finds that we do have Wiley's "Memoirs of Protestant Missionaries in China." When I described it for her a little more in particular she found it and send me a note saying, "This book is in the Library. Since the author's or compiler's name does not appear on the title page, it was not catalogued under 'Wiley.' Can you give us the author's full name?"

Can you give us Wiley's full name to enter on the title page and in our card catalogue?

Very faithfully yours,

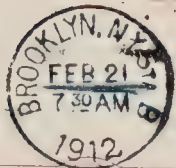
Dictated April 25th.



The Nestorian Monument at Sian-fu  
is fully described in Records of the <sup>246</sup>  
Past, Jan-Feb. 1912 by Fritz von Holm  
of Copenhagen (printed New York) together  
with the Replica made under his di-  
rection & now loaned to Metropoli-  
tan Museum of N.Y. One of the first  
rubbing of this was made for an American  
was made for Dr W. Carter between  
1856-8 who presented it to Pa Acade-  
my of Science (or University) at that time  
with a pamphlet describing it, & his own  
translation. The best known transl. was  
by Alex. Bellie. Yrs truly, H W Rankin,  
Feb 21, 1912

# 11

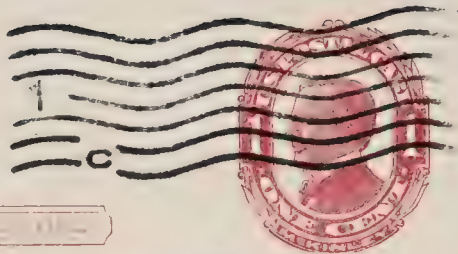
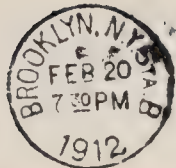
200-R



Mr Robt E Speer 1912  
New York City. Speer.  
156 Fifth Ave

I should have added in my letter that  
in some former letter I gave you a  
full statement, with exact date, of all  
that I know about the Diatessaron,  
& of Dr McCarter's study of Mandarin.  
His constant intercourse with Ningpo offi-  
cials led to this study, in which Dr S. Wells  
Williams alone had preceded him, & in  
which Dr Martin followed him. But Dr McCar-  
ter's book was, I believe, the first book in that  
dialect & script by any ~~foreign~~ Protestant scholar,  
& its initial relation to all Xu literature that  
followed in that language should be under-  
stood, even if much better work has been done  
later. Besides the Harmony, his book contains, I think, the  
Ten Commandments & the Apostles' Creed. H. W. R. Feb 20.  
1912





Mr Robert E. Speer  
New York City  
156 Fifth Ave.  
RECEIVED  
FEB 21 1912

HUDSON 1912

H. W. Rankin 346

Among all books ever written on China there is no more timely summary of its National History & character than that by Dr. Wang Speer published about 1870, & called "The Oldest & the Newest Empire or China & the United States". No other bk that I have read shows more unmistakably the intrinsically Democratic character of the Chinese people. Astonishingly an absolute monarchy. China has always been - the least despotic & most democratic of all Oriental States, old or new. Those who study Wang Speer, & best understand this fact, will be least surprised at the latest turn of the tide. No other bk than that by Wang Speer - so far as I know - so plainly shows the points of fundamental congruity between China & the United States.

Feb 20.  
1912

H. W. R.

P.S.

Dr McCarlee's Diararium

Dr McCarlee learned Macbarin between 1854 & 1860 in Ningpo before going North & on this acct. no doubt left perfectly than those who later lived long after.

was not publ'd in Peking at the Presbu Press probably after its removal from Ningpo to Shanghai. My inaccessible notes will show; for all such particulars I have carefully collected, & for the most part verified.

The present Superintendent of the Press cd give you more information regarding Wylie's book. I cd send ~~descrip~~ its brief description of Dr McCarlee's book, in a ~~brief~~ written or printed copy to such persons at Ningpo, Chefoo & elsewhere who might do in a search for copies. Our copy the Board Library should possess. Besides my own copy, from which I fear one or two printed leaves are now wanting, I know of only one other. That belongs to the McCarlee Library of Far Eastern Texts at the University of Pa.

But this fact only makes it more memorable.



Brooklyn N Y

119 Macau St

Feb 20. 1912

FEB 21 1912

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RECEIVED

APR. 6 1912

FILING DEPT.

Dear Dr Speer

These letters, from Dr. Martin & Corbett, which you kindly sent for my reading, & which I return, only emphasize the importance of my quest. But there has been a singular misapprehension of that quest on the part of some of these gentlemen.

Mr. Baller says that a new Ed'n of Dr. McCarter's work wd require much revision & undoubtedly, as that was the pioneer work of the sort in Mandarin, in which dialect & script Dr. McCarter was ~~so~~ probably the first American scholar to compose a book; & as I suppose, the first to publish any large portion of the New Testament. In the Chinese classical character he was a scholar of the first rank. In the Mandarin script he was only one of the first two or three pioneers.

~~Mr. Luce &~~  
It was not at all my wish that a new ed'n of this book should be prepared; but merely that historical justice should be done

to its place in the literature of  
China missions. Undoubtedly  
the book has the defects of a  
first production in that field,  
but it went through at least  
two editions, & probably more. It  
could hardly fail to be extreme-  
ly useful to those who had it;  
& it led the way to all that have  
followed. Yet these long sub-  
sequent writers appear igno-  
rant of its very existence,  
& are disinclined to perpetuate  
its memory. If Mr. Baller,  
or Mr. Luce had, more than  
fifty years ago, at the very  
beginning of Protestant missions  
in North China, produced a  
Life of Christ in Mandarin,  
consisting in a complete  
"Harmony" of the four Gospels,  
would they not be glad to  
have their work remembered?  
Mr. Luce thinks it is not neces-  
sary that a review of this book  
be included in a biography  
of Dr. Cartee. All I want is  
a brief, but adequate statement  
of its place & value as an initial  
publication in the literature of  
missions; & this much

I think should be prepared, not  
in the least as a personal favor  
to me; but as an interesting  
item in the history of Christianity  
in China. Mr Luce himself wrote  
to me that he had searched in vain  
for to find some earlier enterprise  
in his own line; & he gave me to  
understand that he would be  
very glad indeed to get hold  
of any such previous publication.  
In response to his own letter I sent  
my clean, sound copy, & secured  
for me in Ningbo by Mr. Hoema-  
ker, ~~first~~ to Dr Corbett, who,  
I knew, would do all ~~the~~ needed  
in the way of examining the book,  
& preparing an estimate. He  
had the opportunity; & <sup>also</sup> gave him  
however to give Mr Luce the oppor-  
tunity of ~~seeing~~ seeing the book &  
keeping it a few months, when  
Dr Corbett himself was done with  
it - As you know, the book never  
reached Dr Corbett, until it had  
come back to me from Shanghai,  
through a servants' mistake, &  
& been forwarded once more to  
Dr Corbett. When finally it reach-  
ed him Dr Corbett was just on  
the point of his visit to the  
United States, & had no time.

TELEPHONE RECORDS  
FRANCIS H. BUNCE, M.D.,  
F. R. S. H. T. M. I. L. L. O. N. M. U. N. I. C. I. E.  
S. A. N. I. T. A. R. I. U. M.  
171-19 MACON STREET, BROOKLYN, N. Y.  
CORNER MONROE AVENUE  
AND GREENE ST.  
B. R. T. I. E. H. A. L. L. I. T. O. N. M. U. N. I. C. I. E., D. O.



He then sent it to both Mr. Baller  
& Mr. Luce, as his letter recounts,  
But not until Mr. Luce himself  
was in this country, a year or  
two later, did the book again  
come back to me; & then in a  
much injured condition, &  
without a word of acknowledg-  
ment, explanation or the wished  
for estimate.

So soon as I can find it ~~again~~  
among my things in storage  
I shall be happy to send it  
out once more for the inspec-  
tion of Drs. Corbett & Martin,  
whom from my childhood  
I have revered, & who I am  
sure, will do what they can  
to help me out.

But I have been most unfa-  
vorably situated for any kind  
of careful work, & for more  
than two years all my ma-  
terial has been out of reach  
in storage, pending the uncer-  
tainty of my movements & the  
great inconvenience of my  
present lodging. Having nei-  
ther the health nor the means  
to do as I would, or find  
a place where I can lodge &  
work to some advantage.  
- tho I never despair.

I am very much surprised to learn that you have a copy in the Board Library of Alexander Wylie's Memorial of Protestant Missions in China - publd in Shanghai about 1867-68. My own copy of this is also with my other books in storage. I doubt if any book of reference ~~is~~ is more valuable than this, regarding the biographies & publications of all Protestant Missionaries in China from the beginning to the year this book was pubd. In no other book is so much information of this kind brought together in brief compass; & a reading of this work would ~~have shown~~ show to any missionary in China today a complete & condensed of all the early mission literature. Dr Wylie, as you know, was a very <sup>rare</sup> Sino-  
 logue, who wrote an invaluable & very comprehensive history of Chinese Literature; & other things, the foreign scholars in China could ill afford to do without.

Dr Corbett himself did not

reach China until about the time  
Weylie's Memorials was published,  
but a sketch of Dr Martin's life,  
& description of all his earlier  
publications, are given by Wylie.  
Both men must be familiar with  
Weylie's book, tho' it may be long  
since they have looked at it.  
But when a man proposes, like  
Mr Luce, a new literary enter-  
prise in China, he should  
first read Weylie's Bibliog-  
raphy of the early years.

Doubtless the book has long been  
out of print, but if it can  
be found, the Board Library  
should certainly possess a  
copy. I think you would  
do well to institute a search  
for a copy in China.

But if even Weylie's book is un-  
known to later missionaries  
then we have only another  
conspicuous example of the  
way the fathers & founders are  
forgotten.

One of the first efficient schools  
for girls in China, was that  
conducted by my father & mother  
during all the years of their  
life in China but the first two



or three. From that school came  
a good many pupils to make  
Christian wives, & some of the  
most noteworthy wives of native  
pastors & evangelists. But I don't  
know very much if the persons now in  
charge of the Ningpo Girls' School  
know anything of its early history.  
In the Cycle of Cathay Dr Martin men-  
tions this school as my father's work;  
altho' this was one comparatively  
small part of it; & the actual conduct  
of the school devolved largely on  
my mother, & Mrs de Carter.

My father was an indefatigable  
evangelist in the whole region of  
Ningpo, the founder of at least  
three churches - a native <sup>one</sup> church  
in the city of Ningpo, & later <sup>at</sup> Yafao,  
besides the English Union Chapel  
of Ningpo - all these still <sup>in</sup> ex-  
istence. Besides this, his study was  
the first theological Seminary of  
our Mission, & he personally trained  
several of the strongest native pas-  
tors who long survived him.  
Besides this, the Romanized form  
of the Ningpo dialect, of which Dr Mar-  
tin is the real inventor, was chiefly  
developed & applied by my father,  
& Mr Russell of the Anglican Mission  
later a Bishop, preceding George Moule  
in that capacity. My father prepared  
the first hymn Book & Grammar

TELEPHONE BEFORD 4921  
EDWARD H. MUNCIE, M. D.  
ELIZABETH M. MUNCIE  
SUNBROOK GARDENS

THE MUNCIE SANITARIUM  
119 MADON STREET, BERKLYN, N. Y.  
CORNELIUS M. MUNCIE, M. D.  
OSTEOPATH AND CRTHOPED

of the Ningbo Colloquial - <sup>once</sup> used  
by all the different Missions  
there; & in company with Mr  
Russell, he <sup>first</sup> translated the Penta-  
teuch, Gospels & several Epistles  
out of Hebrew & Greek into <sup>the</sup> Ningbo  
language. The work was comple-  
ted after his death, but begun  
by him. There is also a Dic-  
tionary of Ningbo, publ'd under the  
name of Mrs Morrison; but en-  
tirely based on a large MS Com-  
pilation of the Ningbo vocabulary  
made by Dr de Cartee, & used  
in turn by all subsequent ar-  
rivals in our mission for  
some years. He had no means  
to publish it, & Mrs Morrison  
worked on it for some years, & en-  
larged the contents, & was enabled  
to publish it with means fur-  
nished by her husband's father -  
a man of large business in N.Y.  
No man knows better than you the  
importance to the mission enter-  
prise today of the whole past  
history of the work, as an incentive  
& guide to what follows; & as the only  
means at our disposal of doing  
justice to the founders. So I send  
you these instances & illustrations

Sincerely yrs

( Henry Van Rankin

~~345~~  
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February 17th, 1912 .

Mr. Henry Rankin,  
119 Macon Street,  
Brooklyn, New York.

My dear Mr. Rankin:

Your note of January 31st was duly received, and I have also two letters from Dr. Martin, one of which encloses a letter from Dr. Corbett. I send you these, herewith.

I find that we do not have Wiley's "Memorials of Protestant Missions in China."

I hope that you are feeling better and able to do some encouraging amount of your work each day.

With kind regards, I am

Very cordially yours,

Dictated Feb.14.



RECEIVED

FEB 1 1912

Henry B. Rankin  
Brooklyn 119 Macau St

Jan 31-1912

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346  
17

Dear Mr Speer - I'm sorry my  
copy of the Diatessaron is at  
present in storage with other  
books, somewhat difficult to  
reach, or it might be sent  
to China for the third time in  
prospect of good use. But I  
am sure copies can be found  
about Hongkong, Shanghai or  
Chefoo. I believed it was  
publ'd during a year or two  
spent by Dr Martin in this  
Country before going to Peking;  
but I think he must have known  
of it & forgotten. I forget the  
exact date, I have not Wylie's  
bk at hand in which ~~is~~ the  
full title & some description  
of Dr M<sup>r</sup> Carter's bk are given.  
I know it passed into two  
editions & probably more.  
You probably have Wylie's book  
at the Mission Rooms. It is

& the fact that nobody knows about it except Dr Corbett now face  
makes it the more important that it should be known -  
I sincerely hope Henry W. Rankin

called, I think, Memorials of Prot-  
stant Missionaries in China;  
but published without author's  
name (?) It is a very valuable  
book, long out of print, I suppose,  
with biographical list of all Prot.  
Missionaries in China from the  
first to date (1867 or 8) & bibliog-  
raphy of their publications - in-  
valuable for reference, Dr Mar-  
tin lost his library in the Boxer  
year, & doubtless this book  
with it. If you have it at  
hand please have some type  
written copies made of the acct  
given by Dr de Cartees' book,  
Send me one, & also to Dr Mar-  
tin & Dr Corbett, & Mr Luce  
(when convenient to do so)  
& to the Superintendent of the Press  
at Shanghai & to Dr Richards,  
with an identical note asking  
these gentlemen to make some  
inquiries & keep on look out for  
this bk. Mr Shoemaker found  
one copy for me, & may learn  
of others. Perhaps the Press might  
advertise for it. Two or three  
copies found could be put to good  
use.

~~346~~  
346

Jan. 29th, 1912.

Mr. H. W. Rankin,

119 Macon St.,

Brooklyn, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Rankin,

I have received the following reply to my letter to Dr. Martin with reference to Dr. McCartee's Diatessaron.

Dr. Fenn has published in Chinese a Life of Christ made by combining the texts of the Four Gospels. He tells me he had no knowledge of the existence of Dr. McCartee's book on the subject.

I am sending your letter and Mr. Rankin's to Dr. Corbett, who will have a better chance to find the book of Dr. McCartee, even if it is not now in his hands.

During my life in Ningpo, I compiled a Life of Christ, on the plan of Dr. Fenn's recent work, but never offered it for publication. Dr. McCartee's book could not have been before the public at that time, or I should have seen it. Just when his was published, I am unable to say; nor did I ever obtain a copy - probably owing to my furlough at home, and my removal to Peking.

If Dr. Corbett sends me a copy, I shall not forget to give Mr. Rankin the critical opinion which he requests.

Kindly convey this information - such as it is - to Mr. Rankin, whose father was the most loved of my early associates at Ningpo.

I hope that you are in better health, and with kind regards, I am,

Very faithfully yours,

Dictated Jan. 26th.



AUG 8 1912

346

Aug. 7th, 1912.

Mr. Henry W. Rankin,

119 Macon St.,

Brooklyn, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Rankin,

I have not heard from you for sometime regarding the biography of Dr. McCartee. I am venturing to make bold to ask whether it would not be best to publish the biography in its original form, without further delay, leaving the supplemental volume containing your notes to be published when you are able to complete it. My own conscience has grown a little uneasy, in view of the trust reposed in me by Mr. Miller when he first put the biography in my hands for publication. I fear that he feels he has a just grievance against me for being responsible for this long delay. I know how much the matter is on your heart, and I wouldn't want to say a word that would grieve you, but I know you will understand my raising again the question as to whether you don't owe it to Dr. McCartee and to Mrs. McCartee and to Mr. Miller to publish, if we can now find a publisher, Dr. McCartee's own biography, leaving any supplementary volume to stand by itself whenever it is possible to complete its preparation.

Will you please let me know what you think of this suggestion, and if you approve, will you take up the publication of the autobiography with Mr. Revell or some other publisher, or will you return to me the copy which Mr. Miller left with me in order that I may take it up with the publisher?

I hope that your health has improved somewhat and that you are able to do a little at least of the reading and writing for which you have so

Mr. Rankin - 2.

strong a wall and I wish had so much more physical strength.

With kind regards, I am,

Very cordially yours,

Dictated July 31st - s/d

RECEIVED  
AUG 8 1912

346

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Brooklyn, N. Y.

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Mr. Rankin - S.

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Very cordially yours,

Dictated July 31st - s/d

In The Living Church Sept 15, 1923 there is  
an admirably written Chinese defense  
of missions against a Chinese attack  
by a mission trained man in The  
Nation Feb 7.

4/10 July  
H. W. Rastin

SECRETARIES  
SEP 1 1923

Newport Del

Sept 15.

1923

RECEIVED

SEP 1 1923

Mr. Speer

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Dr Capt. E. Speer  
New York City  
156 Fifth Ave



25  
1925



**CROSS REFERENCE SHEET**

**FILE NO.** 346

**SUBJECT** Complaints against  
Northfield Schools' treatment  
of him.

**SEE**

**FILE NO.** 2015

**LETTER OF** H. W. Rankin

**DATED** April 3/23  
May 4/23

**CROSS REFERENCE SHEET**

---

**FILE NO.** 346

**SUBJECT** Papers of H. W. Rankin  
to be turned over to Mr. Speer  
at Mr. R's. death

**SEE**

**FILE NO.** 230

**LETTER OF** A. P. Fitt

**DATED** April 27  
23

**CROSS REFERENCE SHEET**

**FILE NO.** 346

**SUBJECT** Papers to be left to Board  
at death.

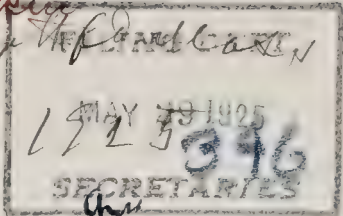
**SEE**

**FILE NO.** 2015  
**LETTER OF** H. W. Rankin  
**DATED** April 27  
23



H. W. Rankin

6110x REFERENCE



has 16.

MAY 19 1925

396

SECRETARIES

Ch

My 21.

RECEIVED

Dear Mr. Speer

re criticisms of National Academy

The enclosed State

ment explains it

self. - Please show

it to any Trustee

at your own discre

tion. It is hard for

me to transcribe

copies. Also show

it to John Mc Dowell

Sincerely, Jw

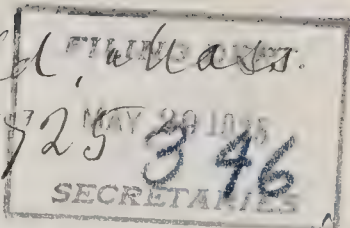
H. W. Rankin

East Northfield, Mass.

May 16. 1875

Robert E. Speer D.D.

to the Trustees of the Northfield  
Schools - Dear Sirs



The Northfield Schools, not the Seminary only, are facing an exigency in their history of portentous character, which cannot affect the Seminary without affecting all Term on, & probably the Conferences in Summer.

I refer to the resignation of all Dickerson from the Principalship of the Seminary, & the stronger half of the Faculty leaving with him.

As an old friend of the Schools, & fourteen years a former Trustee of the Seminary, intimately acquainted with the history of the enterprise from the beginning & intimately associated with D. F. Moody all the last eight or ten years of his life, I make bold to offer some reflections on the situation, & to indicate a remedy within reach of the Trustees. If adopted quickly, I believe the situation will be largely saved, & otherwise lost.

Had I known sooner of the harm  
threatened, you would have heard  
from me sooner, & if I knew now  
how to state the ~~state~~ situation  
in briefer terms, I could do it. But  
in view of the fact that our pres-  
ent action hangs the future of the  
whole Northfield enterprise, I  
bespeak your patient attention to  
the statement that follows; to which,  
long as it may seem to busy men,  
much might be added by way of  
re-enforcement.

I have already written the history  
of this enterprise covering the first  
twelve years; & the first ~~hundred~~  
~~copies~~ thousand copies of that ac-  
count distributed in two small vol-  
umes brought in so much money  
to the Schools that Mr. D. Lillvoldy  
urged me to continue writing for  
the rest of my life. That was not  
possible, & was many years ago.  
Now, as I once more resume my  
pen to help the Schools, I trust the  
issue ~~may~~ <sup>may</sup> be as fortunate.

I cannot see the danger threaten-  
ing this work, nor the distress con-  
fronting the Trustees, without offer-  
ing testimony that may possibly avert



the harm. In what I have to say I shall quote no one living here, but speak from what is either Common Knowledge, or my own immediate knowledge & observation. I have not been asked to write this letter, but do it solely on my own motion, & stand ready to answer for every word I use.

The event immediately in prospect will so shake the confidence of the Christian public in the wisdom of the management, & particularly the confidence of the old-Student constituency, which has been shaken once before on the same grounds, but is now growing larger & stronger all the time, that without the remedy which I have to propose, or even that too late applied, I fear that confidence can never be recovered, nor the work continued in other than a crippled condition.

The root of all this trouble here lies in the strictly autocratic relation assumed by the President of the Board to the Principals of the Schools, a relation that has proved wholly hurtful, & that the Founder of the Schools was slow to act upon, though he alone ever had the right to do so.

If the two Principals were made ac-  
countable for their administration  
to the whole Board of Trustees, & not  
merely to one member of the Board,  
acting as an individual employer,  
all serious friction would be end-  
ed. If the Principals regularly  
made report directly to the entire  
Board in session, with every oppor-  
tunity to state their views & problems,  
answer questions, & participate  
in open discussion with the Trust-  
ees, the mutual understanding so  
induced would advance the well-  
fare <sup>of the work</sup> in many ways where at  
present that welfare is obstructed.  
And not only so, but the Trustees  
themselves would enjoy the improved  
relation of direct intercourse with  
the Principals, & first hand infor-  
mation. They would become well  
acquainted with the two men, & find  
them well worth knowing; find their  
knowledge of the local problems  
so complete, their experience so rich  
in incident, their ideals so high,  
the proved success & wisdom of  
their administration so plainly  
marked, that the personal inter-  
est of the Trustees in the enterprise  
would be vitally enhanced, at the  
cost of little additional time & effort

on their part. <sup>2</sup> They would also realize more vividly than existing conditions permit, how fundamentally indispensable to the welfare & safety of the entire Country is precisely the kind of education here given to boys & girls.

Our whole land & world to day are facing the most rapid, dangerous & tragic change of all modern history from the best ideals & habits of the past, to the wildest experiments of the present, & ominous prospects of the future. Like all the best schools of our earlier national history, the Northfield Schools were founded to make moral & spiritual values first in education, to show where the religious sources of these values lie, to maintain an atmosphere favorable to their pursuit, & to provide an intellectual discipline which should fit the young to hold their own through life, in the interest of these high ~~ideals~~ ends.

Few schools have succeeded so well in producing the results which are here designed. No other secondary schools in this Country have in so few years reached a development at once so swift & thorough,



produced so large a proportion of  
the fruitage sought, or become so deep-  
ly & widely entrenched in the confi-  
dence of the Colleges, the public or their  
own student constituency, as the  
Schools here. And no other fet-  
ting Schools can be named more  
fortunate, on the whole, than those in  
having as Principals the two men  
who have now for so long guid-  
ed the internal administration;  
both being men whom, for seasons  
that can be made plain, the Trust-  
ees cannot possibly afford to  
lose.

Both were men of high standing  
in their own colleges, who in the  
strength of early manhood came  
here to teach, with the personal  
character & evangelical convic-  
tions that prepared them for hearty  
coöperation with the Founder of this  
work. They are the strongest  
living link between the Founder &  
the students now possessed by  
either school, carrying for-  
ward his memory & his aims  
as no new heads could ever do,

Combining a full accord with his ideals & the best ideals of academic training. Finding the work well started, they have in the face of obstacles, steadily improved the organization of every department, until now when the Schools have arrived at a higher efficiency than at any time past, & need only the united support of the Trustees to become much stronger, & obtain a wider public confidence than ever.

This has been achieved by a mutual insight into the problems involved, unusual tact in personal relations, indefatigable effort & executive ability of high order, moved by unsparring & unselfish devotion to the best interests of all concerned. The internal harmony of each School has been exceptionally good, each having a teaching staff & a student body strongly united to the Principal & by him. His function is primary, & not secondary to that of any other person connected with the work.

The Corporation, the Trustees, the Faculty, the Farm, the Property & the money annually raised, are all incidental to his function. If he is the right man for the post, to have such a man in such a place is reason enough for keeping him there so long as he lives with health to carry on.

Mr Dickerson had long preparation for the Principalship of the Seminary by his twenty two years as head of the department of Science at ~~MS~~ & vice Principal at Mt Hermon. As a teacher, he set such a high ideal of thoroughness before the boys, that all who completed the course & went to college found themselves so much in advance of others that college work for them was fun. His executive ability was proved at Mt Hermon, not only in the capacity of Vice Principal, but by his effective organization of the whole department of Science with its several instructors, laboratories, library & museum.



He only lacked time for original research to prove himself also competent in that field.

It was also he who first persuaded Mr Silliman to build the Hall of Science, & afterward to nearly double its size. He was also the friend of all whose welfare he could serve, & is beloved today by an army of students going out from both Schools, & by them so extending his reputation that I always feared, lest some college would drag him away from Mt Vernon, when he was there.

More does his value to both Schools has been greatly advanced by his wife, as well fitted for her place as he for his. If we lose him, we lose her too. At the Seminary, where executive tasks have occupied all his time, he has greatly strengthened the total efficiency of the school, & if permitted to do so, would improve it much more yet. He has grown into the work & conditions of both schools, & grown with them. He was never so competent as now to handle the problems before him. It is harder to find the right head for a large fitting school than to find a good

College President; but a man who has accomplished all that Mr Dickerson has for both of the Northfield Schools is fit to be President of any University.

He is the last man to be content with past achievement, & only wants adequate coöperation from the Trustees to secure a continual advance in the intrinsic quality & public esteem of the school he directs. Nothing in his plans has proved impractical, but so far as they have been permitted, every measure in either school to which he has put his hand has been justified in the result. His efforts, however, have been retarded by want of a general understanding among the Trustees regarding his standards, methods & aims, & from time to time they have been abstracted by overrulings that he could not approve & could not appeal.

A man so placed, however great his merits, should not of course be left responsible to none. As Principal, he is the principal agent of the Trustees in developing the in-

terests they guard. But all the guard-  
ians should have a first hand  
Knowledge of their man; & no good  
reason can be given why he should  
not be responsible to the entire Board,  
& not merely to one member of their  
body. If he must answer to one  
Man alone, who has sole power  
to reject his propositions, forbid his  
measures, impose measures over  
his head that he cannot approve,  
& shut off all appeal & free discussion,  
plainly a situation may arise to  
which no self-respecting man can  
permanently submit. This is the situa-  
tion in the present instance, & one  
which must arise again with any  
future Principal, who has a mind of  
his own, & is not a mere echo to such  
an individual employee.

So long as D. L. Moody lived, the heads  
of the Schools invariably met with the  
Trustees during some part of their  
regular session for the personal con-  
tact & ~~regular~~ open discussion need-  
ed. And not only so; for it was the  
pleasure of D. L. Moody to invite the  
Faculties of the Schools to be his guests  
at the Hotel for a week after Com-



meccanent, that the two Faculties might get acquainted with each other, have opportunity to meet the Trustees & Summer Speakers who might be there for free intercourse & question, & that so he himself & the Trustees might become better acquainted with the teachers.

The first Principal of Mt Vernon, Mr E. D. Hubbard, was a member of the Board before & during & after his brief tenure of office as Principal, which was ended by illness. He was an admirable man for his post, & his leaving it a loss to the School. But in many, if not all the best endowed fitting Schools of this Country the Principal is himself a Trustee. It is so in Andover & Exeter & New Haven, the Hill School & elsewhere. Why not also here, with two head-masters unequalled by any in New England for personal character & equipment, & the work they have already done? Why should not men with the ability, fidelity & long proved fitness in administration here exemplified, be themselves full colleagues with

the Trustees, & not mere underlings to one member of the Board, who has not himself a fraction of their equipment for the internal direction of the Schools? Mr W. R. Moody is a good collector of funds, but all that makes the funds worth collecting, or possible to collect, is the work done by the Principal; by no possibility could Mr Moody fulfil the function of the latter.

So long as D. L. Moody lived, his own relation to the ~~School~~ work was primary. The work was exclusively his personal enterprise. He never built on any other man's foundation. He not only founded the Schools, established the ends of their being & raised the funds for their support, but his personal influence was paramount on the character of students, teachers & Trustees, & upon the vast circle of friends who rallied about him with their sympathy & aid. There is no man living to take his place in Northfield or the world. He was absolutely unique in his generation, a man of

the right hand of the Most High (Ps 80:17)  
to be accounted for only by the explana-  
tion offered in Scripture for the pro-  
phet Jeremiah (Jer 1:5) & the apostle  
Paul (Gal. 1:15-6). Nothing of his in-  
fluence, nor of his priority, belongs  
to the sea.

The earlier students have pre-  
cious memories of the Founder, &  
the attachment to the Schools of  
later students is due to their expe-  
rience of internal conditions,  
their happy memories of teachers  
companions & the whole campus  
life, often of the religious life  
here found. In no case, appar-  
ently, is it due to the personal influ-  
ence of W. R. Moody, which  
might be much greater than it  
is. But, in fact, is almost negligi-  
ble. He has greatly lowered his pos-  
sible influence for good on the  
lives of students & teachers by some  
of his words & ways.

He is not the kind of man to be  
entrusted with autocratic powers,  
& even if he were such, what  
need is there for such an author-  
ity over the two head masters,



provided these men, & the local Trustees, are all alike amenable to the Common judgment of the Board? & if values are of another kind, & do not lie in the exercise of this or responsible function.

But, if you must know the reasons why, then, in the interest of the Schools, I shall be obliged to state some unpleasant facts of Common Knowledge, or of my own observation that make his disqualification perfectly plain. I have no pleasure in saying these things, I have only good will towards, & do it as a last resort, & at the last minute, to save this splendid work, if possible, from ruin, or at least a serious deflection from its primary purpose. I do this at the risk of offending his personal friends whom I address, & of incurring his implacable enmity; for if you tell him what I say that will probably result. But I am no enemy at all to him, & am serving now his own best interests no less than those of the Schools. Yet I would sooner have you tell him all that I say than have you desert him, & this good work his father founded.

will no body bear an honored name  
& is a valuable man. He has been  
of great assistance to this enterprise,  
even indispensable, & is that still.  
He can be of far more assistance in  
the future than in the past. It is only  
a question of finding his right place  
in this organization, & exhibiting  
a right spirit. He has good per-  
sonal address, & in company that  
he likes has all the social amenities  
at command. He has good busi-  
ness ability, & has done his full  
part to keep up the finances. He makes  
a ductable chairman for the Board of  
Trustees & the Trustees have it in  
their power, by a slight readjust-  
ment of his direct relation to the  
Schools, to develop his best qualities,  
& make him far more serviceable  
than at present.

### I

He is not, however, a judicially  
minded man, but acts upon hasty  
prejudice & partialities. He is  
not thoroughly just. He does not  
like the high standards of scholars-  
hip set up by the Principals, does  
not share some of his father's mature  
convictions in matters of Con-  
duct, & is far less clearly defined

& well grounded than his father was  
 in those religious convictions of a  
 strictly Biblical Christianity which  
 alone - made possible the greatness  
 of his father's character & influence,  
 & the very existence of these Schools.  
 He resents criticism directed to him-  
 self, pleads his own conversation  
 with caustic comments upon others,  
 For on those he considers his subor-  
 dinates he does not easily tolerate  
 dissent. He is inclined to charge  
 others with blame that belongs to him-  
 self & take credit to himself that be-  
 longs to others. In the art of putting  
 a new self in another's place, he is  
 little skilled, & insensibility to  
 obvious facts to & often marks his  
 judgment & his conduct.

## II

His brother, sister & her husband,  
 when the death of D. L. Moody occurred,  
 & for some time later, were on the  
 Board of Trustees. Why did they  
 so soon resign? I have reason  
 to believe it was to avoid a family  
 quarrel, they could not always  
 accept his judgment, yet knew that



He is in your hands to bring about this change. Pray for me all you please by reporting this testimony to him; yet I know these things to be true, & will answer for every word I have written. By his father & mother I was reckoned an intimate friend, & I have known him since he was quite a young boy. When he was about 16, his mother, in her anxiety, urged me to pray for him; & from that day to this, without intermission, I have besought the mercies of God for Will Moody. Therefore, I am not his enemy, & do not entertain toward him the least ill will.

But I have written these things to save him from the consequences of his own folly; to save the Trustees from inevitable humiliation, if his authority be not restrained, & to save the Schools from no very distant ruin. Moreover the future of the whole Northfield enterprise is implicated in the action taken for the Seminary now. It is true that only the Seminary is immediately threatened; but the Schools are one Corporation, & so vital is the bond between them that no breaking down & rebuilding of one can occur that does

not seriously affect the other, & will  
- the Summer interests of this place.

The ideas of the Founder, & the con-  
current ideas of the Northfield Prin-  
cipals made effective - this, & no  
- thing else has created & maintained  
the splendid reputation of the Schools,  
& their place in the affections of the  
students. And now, at the height  
of their efficiency, these Schools are  
- threatened with a radical over-  
turning such as cannot possibly  
increase the confidence of the stu-  
dent constituency, nor of the public  
in their guardians. If one of these  
Principals becomes permanently  
lost to the work, & a strong contin-  
gent of the Faculty goes with him,  
the organization is shaken to its foun-  
dation, & must be re-constructed  
by a new head & a new Staff.  
How will it be possible to maintain  
- the spiritual continuity of the School?

To find a new Principal & a  
Staff wholly faithful to the traditions  
of the place, will be difficult though;  
but even if found, an efficient organ-  
ization more than forty years in

building up cannot be reconstructed in a year by a Faculty of strangers to the personalities, ideals & methods of the past. All the vacancies may be filled, yet the whole soul & atmosphere of the place known hitherto be wanting; especially, if innovations are introduced discordant with the whole past history.

The best thing W. R. Moody ever did for the Seminary was his selection of Mr. Dickerson for Principal; but without so well known & right at hand, the choice was easy, & could not have been better. Beyond this W. R. Moody has no experience in selecting teachers, no well defined conception of what is wanted. For the Trustees to risk all these changes, if by honorable inducements Mr. Dickerson can be led to cancel his action in resigning, & can hold some of the teachers now planning to forsake the school, would be to throw away good property for a gamble; & certainly such inducements can be offered.



If at this time Mr. Dickerson should permanently quit the helm, in the full tide of his exceptional success, & in the fast growing reputation of the School, only to uphold, & leave undiminished the dictatorial function of W. R. Moody, the decline & fall of Northfield will begin. The present relation of the two men is abnormal - an inversion of values. In a great School the office of Principal is primary, that of the collector of funds secondary.

In many high-grade schools & colleges, the Principal or President must spend much of his time as financial agent for the institution; & Northfield is fortunate in having one man, not the Principal, who can give most of his time to this service. Yet, as I have already said, all that makes the funds worth collecting, or possible to collect, is the kind of work accomplished by the Principal.

So long as Dr. L. Moody lived, funds could be gathered on the strength of his name; now it must be mainly on the intrinsic merits of the work.

And now for the remedy:  
 To secure the best mutual understand-  
 ing & cooperation, the Northfield Trustees  
 decide that they want here after direct  
 contact with the Principals, let them  
 move & carry a proposition to that  
 effect, & if possible, before the regular  
 annual meeting. Let no measure  
 affecting the interests of either school  
 be shut off or adopted, unless after  
 full consultation in which the Prin-  
 cipal shares. This order should  
 apply to any Principal, old or new,  
 but does not go far enough in the  
 case of the men now in office,  
 these men should themselves be-  
 come full members of the Board in  
 keeping with the practice of the best  
 fitting schools elsewhere.

If this be agreed to, then let the Trus-  
 tees collectively notify Mr. Dickerson  
 of their satisfaction with his adminis-  
 tration hitherto, their urgent desire to have  
 him continue in charge of the Semina-  
 ry, of their extreme regret that any mis-  
 understanding should have occurred,  
 of their determination to prevent this,  
 if possible, in the future, by giving

him, & at the same time, Mr Cutler, full  
access & right of appeal to the entire  
Board, & an equal voice in the office  
of Trustee. Guarantee Mr Dick-  
erson a free hand, subject only to  
the ruling of all the Board, & assure  
him of your cordial backing &  
fellowship in the enterprise he is  
conducting for you all.

Then, if he consents, after a year's  
rest, to return to the work, assure  
the present Faculty of this, & re-  
vise the present salary list so well as  
that can be done at this time.

Finally, let Mr Moody endorse  
your letter with one of his own.

What representations of Mr Dick-  
erson he has made to the Trustees,  
of course I do not know. But if  
the truth be that he does not want Mr  
Dickerson to return, I should  
consider that the most flagrant in-  
stance among many of Mr Moody's  
insensibility to obvious facts, in  
that case it is for you to deal with  
him, as you certainly can. Mr W. R.  
Moody is under obligations that he



can never repay, in any material way, for the extent & kind of work done by these Principals. For the spirit they have shown, & the results they have produced, no fiscal equivalent is possible, no compensation can ever be made in cash.

If these terms are proposed to Mr Dickerson, I think we may expect him to reconsider the purpose he has announced, & soon to enter the best period of his service, still before him, not behind. I think also this change could be effected by the Trustees so quietly, with so few words, & so little publicity, that beyond seeing the two Principals a year hence on the Board, few would know what had occurred, or what was implied in this event.

If this remedy for the present, & not present only but chronic trouble, is not applied, & the permanent resignation of the Principal is announced at Commencement, the Trustees will have some awkward questions to answer, from the whole body of old students, old contributors, the public & the press. Why does Mr Dickerson resign? He does so of his own free

wice, to be sure; but why should he wish to resign, or think he must? There is but one true answer; if any misrepresentation of the facts be made, Mr Dickerson will be forced to give his own explanation. He has old friends who would understand it in any case, however little self-defense he makes. In spite of his unwillingness to utter a word that may cause dispute, or endanger public confidence in the management, his old students will not let him misrepresent or hold their tongues. Every honorable student of both Schools who has ever studied or been graduated under him, will accept his explanation before any other that anybody may present. If W. R. Moody should follow his life-long habit, he will say anything to save himself from blame; but the grounds of this resignation are wholly honorable to the Principal, & not honorable to his irresponsible employes. Why should such a man as Mr Dickerson be only the private employe of W. R. Moody?

But all public talk can be entirely pre-empted by our immediate adoption of the remedy proposed. By such action the Trustees will not only avert the worst consequences of the immediate crisis, & forestall future crises of this kind, but can do more personal good to W. R. Moody than any other agency on earth. He has plenty of ability, but his character lacks weight. Parity the bubble of his self-importance, & his real importance will be much enhanced; & by this means his personal influence for good in the life of the Schools, now almost a minus quantity, may be raised to any degree. He sometimes preaches a good sermon in Sage Chapel; yet no speaker comes before the School audience whom the listeners care less to hear - unless new comers. I have seen say: "What you are speaking so loudly that I can't hear what you say."

The Trustees usually see him, perhaps at his best, but we in Northfield at his worst.



We also want a chance to see the better side, & to see the whole man more like his father in humility & self-forgetfulness - The longer D. L. Moody lived, the more humble & gentle & considerate & loving he grew. He turned all criticism, into a means of grace; & rarely has a man been seen so to improve upon himself, & outgrow his own mistakes as D. L. Moody. But he was educated in the University of hard knocks, & his son in the college of soft soap. As often happens to a son of royalty, too much prosperity for his own good has been his lot.

If I knew any other way to bring about the change of government that to me seems indispensable to the welfare of Northfield, I would have left out much from this letter that I have had no pleasure in putting in it. But I am the friend of W. R. Moody - much more so than he ever knew or cared.

and I again urge you not to let any thing I have said induce you to desert him or the Schools; for neither he nor the Schools ever needed your help so much as now; & the Schools have never all served it more.

I am a stranger to most of the Trustees, but have known Mr. Revell since 1851. If you may ask him any questions about me you please; but to spare him needless grief, do not show him what I have written about his nephew. Indeed, if a Committee of the Trustees should read this letter, perhaps the end here sought may be secured, without troubling the others; for those who read it will have reason enough to urge the change proposed, apart from some of the personal considerations.

I purpose to send identical copies of this letter to Mr. Balkley, Mr. Crossell, Mr. Gray, Mr. McPinney & perhaps some others - if you may think it best to have some

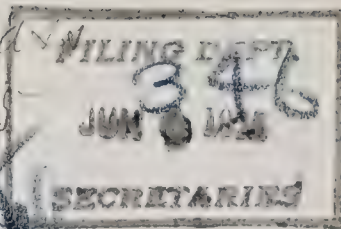
copies typed. I shall hope for  
some favorable action by the  
Trustees within ten days tho  
the time is short. As a word  
reaches me to that effect, I  
shall also send copies to the  
Alumni & Alumnae Councils  
- but not, if the plan is soon  
accepted by the Trustees. For  
I wish this letter to be confi-  
dentially received by the  
smallest number of persons  
needed to effect the change  
And again, let me say, I write  
this letter on my own motion,  
& stand ready to answer for  
all that I have said.

If you knew the whole of my  
past connection with this  
work, you would acquit me  
of impertinent meddling; &  
believe me sincerely & cordial-  
ly the friend of all who seek  
the peace & weal of  
Northfield.

Henry William Rankin



East Northfield, N.H.  
May 28. 1925



Dr. Robert E. Speer  
Eaglewood, N.H.

My dear Dr. Speer, You are very kind to  
respond so promptly, in your crowded  
hours, to my statement of affairs here.  
The sole purpose of my testimony,  
has been to persuade the Trustees, if pos-  
sible, to consider seriously the mat-  
ter of giving the two Principals here  
complete access to the Bd of Trustees,  
& an equal voice in the discussion  
& decision of School problems; & in  
addition to that, making them full mem-  
bers of the Bd in keeping with the  
best practice elsewhere - Andover,  
Exeter, New Haven, Hill School & others.  
Andover is your School of mine -  
was there in Dr. Taylor's time, & class of '70,  
excepting Prof Edwards of Park, there  
was no man on the Andover Bd to com-  
pare for intrinsic eminence with  
Dr. Samuel H. Taylor, nothing would seem  
more absurd than his exclusion from  
membership. But I think all his pre-  
decessors local Trustees, & all who

name after. I have known the two Prin-  
cipals here - know them well & at  
close hand - since their first arrival  
here. to teach 36 or 41 yrs ago. They are  
essentially different from each other;  
but, in my judgment, each one has been  
exceptionally well equipped for his  
task, & highly successful in produ-  
cing the results here sought. They have  
made some mistakes of judgment, like  
all school masters, & all the best of  
us, But I doubt if any other man  
could at this late date <sup>be found</sup> make good  
their loss to these schools. Of the  
two I personally regard Dickerson  
as not only the more versatile & bril-  
liant in resources, & a better teacher  
than Cutler, but also not behind him  
as an executive; & far better fitted  
than Cutler would prove in handling  
the girls. As a teacher at Haman  
D. made a record of exceptional quality,  
& no one doubts it. ~~But~~ <sup>As</sup> Principal  
neither man teaches, but <sup>is</sup> wholly occu-  
pied with executive work.

Will ready thinks <sup>D's</sup> administra-  
tion very defective, but his faculty  
& students past & present are very  
strongly, if not absolutely, united in

Supporting him, & hold him in espe-  
cially high regard. In matters of ad-  
ministrative there is a conflict of testi-  
mony between him & W.R. & my main  
purpose in this note is to say that  
if the Trustees let him go from this  
work without giving him a adequate  
opportunity of making his own expla-  
nation of ~~present~~ school conditions,  
& a adequate inducement to do it, ~~but~~  
if they merely accept W.R.'s estimate  
at its face value, they will do a  
great & measurable injustice  
~~and do not learn all that I can tell~~  
~~them~~ to one of the finest characters  
& most effective men ever connect-  
ed with this enterprise. Barring  
all comparison with the Founders  
of these schools, I believe the two Prin-  
cipals are the peers of any man  
ever connected in any capacity  
with this work from the beginning —  
peers. So far as fitness goes for their  
own special provinces. They are  
today by far the strongest living links  
between the Founder & the Students, im-  
parting his ideals, with the best ideals  
of academic training. Both schools  
I have deficiencies & defects; both are  
limited in resources, & both Prin-  
cipals



parts are subject to a court of rulings,  
whether or not those rulings are approved.  
Mr. Cutler is far more pliant & less  
independent than Mr. D. & can hardly be  
persuaded to express any objection to  
Mr. Moody's judgment. Mr. D. has sub-  
mitted with the least possible complaint  
to many rulings that he has totally  
disapproved, & which in his judgment  
have obstructed improvements that he  
certainly could have made. Both  
men have ardently wished to avoid a  
break; but in matters of internal  
administration the judgment of both  
men is worth far more than that of  
Mr. Rill. Existing defects are charged  
to ~~his~~ <sup>my</sup> ~~fault~~ that are only results of con-  
ditions he has not been free to prevent.

I am convinced that repeatedly  
the facts as seen by Mr. D. have  
been totally disregarded, & sometimes  
unintentionally misrepresented. For  
I do not accuse W.R.M. of intentional  
misrepresentation or conscious injustice.  
But unless the Trustees are just as  
anxious to learn ~~his~~ <sup>his</sup> Mr. D.'s atti-  
tude as W.R.M., they will make some  
grievous mistakes, & in my opinion  
incur an irreparable loss.

Commencement is only a few days  
off, & long before this a private an

dience sh<sup>d</sup> have been accorded Mr  
D. by a Council of Officers, to  
learn exactly his own reasons for  
resigning. There that can be done  
now before the final announce-  
ment of the resignation, I don't  
know. He is exceedingly un-  
willing to say a word even in  
private to implicate W.R. in any  
way unbecoming to the public con-  
fidence. But something must  
be said, or there will be no  
justice done in this matter.

To throw away D. for a new man  
is throwing away splendid property  
for a gamble. Old Prof Duffield  
of Princeton told me. When D. & W.  
sent me to make inquiries, before  
the appointment of Mr Puttee, that it is  
harder to find the right head for a  
big fitting school than a good Col-  
lege President. I think reasons  
can be specified. No new Coun-  
cil is likely to have any personal  
relation to the founder, & a highly  
trained teacher in sympathy with  
the strictly evangelical ~~views~~  
convictions that made possible  
the greatness of D. & W. & the very best

ance of these Schools - is getting more  
& more difficult to find. In fact  
there is an obvious inclination  
here now to get away from the old  
19th<sup>th</sup> basis of the Bible as it stands  
written, not the Bible rewritten to  
suit the major premise of a  
called - modern thought - viz a  
naturalistic universe. The whole  
of nature as well as Scripture  
is grounded in the Supernatural,  
which is first in both. The  
last Convention call sent out by  
D. L. D. in 1899 should be hung  
in large letters over the platform  
of the Auditorium this summer.

My statement to the Trustees had goal  
to flowe men only, & I shall send it  
no farther - to yourself & Fry & Cras-  
sell & Bullock. It was the hardest  
& most hateful piece of writing - so far  
as it regards W. R. - I ever did in my  
life. Believing all of it true on suffi-  
cient evidence, I saw no other way  
to convince the Trustees that W. R.'s  
values do not lie in his exercise of  
a dictatorial function; & unless they  
see special grounds for that ~~conviction~~  
conclusion, we shall lose Col. Dickerson,  
& the old root of trouble will remain  
with his successor.



I was not telling a private grievance  
to others before telling the offender.  
but speaking to the official guardians  
of these virtually public interests as  
a former guardian of the same. Yet,  
but for the shortness of time, & my very  
much broken health, almost forbidding  
the attempt, I would have frankly  
remanesated ~~with~~ first with W.R.,  
It is the first & only time I have ever  
written such things about any living  
man. & I knew it could only bring grief,  
if not open offense, to the personal friends  
addressed. Perhaps my method  
was all wrong, however slight my  
aim. I was so shocked & distressed  
by news of S's resignation, only reach-  
ing me eight weeks ago, I hardly knew  
what to do. "C" I was not wholly  
surprised, because I have long  
known the two men, & the disposi-  
tion to an abuse of power I have  
described. I am the sincere friend  
of more than one person whose judg-  
ment or conduct I strongly disap-  
prove. So is Chas. at himself, & he  
never would have found us. By  
nature W.R. is no one else than most  
of us, & he has never endured the  
discipline suffered by his father for  
his own profit. He is however  
suffering a little of it now.

I knew he wd be furious if told what  
I had written, & Mr Bulley has  
briefly paraphrased some of my words.  
In the letter, I say, I am ready to answer  
for every word, as of course I must.  
I wished the future comfort of my ~~self~~  
& of my relation to Northpd, to save  
this work which I greatly love, & into  
which I have put as much of my  
life as any man living, from the  
misdirection & injury that I see  
impending.

Tuesday & Wednesday I was called  
to account, & charged with malicious  
falseness. Never before have I ~~been~~<sup>been</sup>  
charged with malice. My attitude  
to W.R. is the contradictory oppo-  
site of malice, I have served my  
fellow men for long alone, & there  
has never been a time when I would  
not as gladly <sup>have</sup> served the best in-  
terests of W.R. as of his father, who  
told me he cd never repay me &  
never thank me enough. In fact  
I have served the son, in many ways  
never recognized by him, & all in  
my disabled years. But now I know  
exactly how Shadrach, Meshach  
& Abednego felt when they entered  
the furnace, & when they came out. For  
I was not alone in that encounter,  
& the lion ended like a lamb.

I told him frankly I had written  
 about him severe things ~~that for~~  
 believing wh' I had sufficient  
 evidence; & what I had written,  
 that for his own good, & to pro-  
 mote the best mutual under-  
 standing & Cöoperation between  
 the Schools & the Board, the  
 change in Government I proposed  
 seemed indispensable; - that for  
 the things said of Paul & Miss,  
 all I had their personal testimony  
 in 1909 with that of others close  
 to them; that from all I & few  
 words I drew a reasonable  
 inference; & that the general  
 characterization was based on  
 common observation of many <sup>persons,</sup> &  
 my own observation of many years;  
 that since he was <sup>bad,</sup> I had  
 daily entreated the mercies of God  
 on his soul, & would do so still  
 so long as I lived, because he  
 needed them; He admitted  
 that he did. He dismissed  
 me cordially & said we are  
 quits -



He has not, of course, read my  
Statement to the Trustees, which  
would be a dreadful ordeal.  
It might make him more feel-  
ingful than ever, or have just  
the opposite effect. It might  
reach his conscience ~~at~~ in a  
Sermon he ever - listened to.  
If it sh'd have that effect, it  
will make him twice or ten-  
times the man he has ever  
been hitherto.

Whether he ought to see the  
letter I don't pretend to know.

I leave that to you four  
men,

Mr Buckley is  
greatly incensed, & tells me  
Mr R. is one of the most con-  
secrated men he ever knew.

Unhappily no such impression  
is made here on neighbors  
or school or town. Yet  
I venture to believe the best  
days of W. M. are before him,

I hope you may find a way  
to secure a confidential  
interview with D. before  
the irrevocable step is made.

If he could meet all of you  
four men together, very  
much might be learned of  
value to you further action  
As for me, I will answer  
for my words to those ad-  
dressed, if called for; tho'  
I am so unwell that all  
conversation is difficult  
but the most casual & slight.  
The Searcher of hearts will  
judge between me & W. R.  
Wherein I have done wrong,  
let the odium & condemnation  
be mine. Wherein I have  
done right, may W. R. benefit,  
& my judgment be as the noon-  
day. I certainly have meant  
good only to the Schools, the Trustees,  
& W. R. himself.

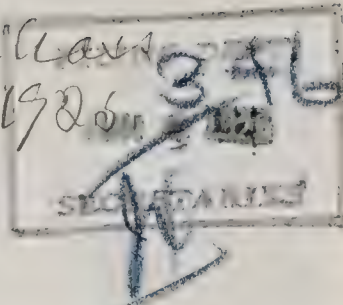
Ask D - particularly about the  
Scheme & ideal of Student Govern-  
ment, & the results in discipline,  
the percentage of disorder; the  
investigators who have visited  
the School; the quality of teach-  
ers & adjustment of salaries;  
the improvements proposed, the  
defects existing, average Schol-  
arship & morale, frequent change  
of faculty, losses & gains &c  
causes of friction, instances of  
absenteeism, access to Board.

Even after Commencement, D  
might be led to cancel his action  
& return to the School a year  
hence, if the Trustees decide  
that he is a safer main to keep  
than a new venture. Oldwick,  
N.J., near Morristown, will be  
his summer home. I am  
boarding near Auditorium at  
Lambson's. You only of the four  
men has any personal acquaint-  
ance with me. Perhaps a note from  
you to the other men might facilitate  
action. Sincerely yours  
Henry Wm Rowlin



East North & West

June 1. 1920



Dr. Labd E. Speer  
Englewood N.J.

My dear Dr. Speer; Much more briefly  
I made your crowded hours & piece  
of mind, with a last warning in the  
North's business, before it becomes  
too late to remedy a very great injus-  
tice to Mr. Richardson, & an impending  
injury to this entire North's enterprise.

Perhaps Mr. R. may tell you that I am  
irresponsible, & acting on insanity,  
or such things as I have written & do  
not say. I certainly do have friends  
a better way of approaching the Trustees  
but for the shortness of time to produce  
any effect, & the fact that I have  
been too unwell to speak of these matters  
in person either to the Trustees, or to  
Mr. R. But as to my sanity & com-  
petence as a witness I refer you to  
John McDowell, & wish you would get  
his judgment on the things I have  
written. I stand ready to answer  
to the four men whom I addressed

for every word written in my  
statement, & have already said  
to W.R. for the things contained in  
Mr Bullock's report to him of my Com-  
munication. Of course, my statement  
was not meant for his eyes, & I suppose  
has not been shown him. Yet the  
things said <sup>in it</sup> of him were said  
in his own interest, & that of his  
whole future influence; were said  
to his close friends, not his enemies;  
friends who are the official guardians  
of the schools, by one who long served in  
the same capacity; & said in confi-  
dence, in the hope of effecting an indis-  
pensable change in management here  
with the least amount of personal af-  
front to him. The change to be made on  
the general principle involved, openly  
discussed with him, & apart from any  
allusion to my illustrations of W.R.'s  
unfitness for the rôle of Zae. If there  
is any insincerity or iniquity in this, by  
all means discount my testimony as you  
will. He has plenty of friends who will  
not dare say out what I have written,  
& my writing was a severest of friend-  
ships. I told him I am willing to be judg-  
ed by any man who is otherwise a friend to  
me as I have been to him these many years;  
but God would judge between us. So I am  
perfectly content to rest the case with him.

wherein I have erred, will gladly  
let God show me, & I will repent it,  
I make the best amends in my power,  
wherein I have been right, may God  
show him, & bring him to repentance.

By reporting my statement to him ~~thru~~  
a misleading paraphrase Mr Bullock  
has only hurt his own cause by compri-  
cating the task of reaching an equitable  
adjustment of the situation, which is  
the end to be sought by all ~~alike~~.  
Concerned.

It is a year since Mr Dickerson's  
resignation was first handed in, &  
accepted to take effect at this time,  
yet to this day no official inquiry has  
been made into the reasons for this re-  
signation, & no effort made to secure  
its withdrawal by such a mutual un-  
derstanding, & such honorable induce-  
ments as might have this result -  
& might even yet have this result, if  
not deferred too long. It is true that  
two men on the Board, as personal  
friends, have sought private interviews  
& obtained a great light. But nothing has  
been done in session or Committee  
toward affording Mr D. an unembor-  
rassed opportunity of making his own  
explanations. Meanwhile, over his



head, & partly in his absence, ~~superficial~~  
investigations have been conducted  
into conditions of the school, & of his  
administration, resulting in a dispar-  
aging estimate - or partly so; & his  
reaction to the reports handed in, has  
not been sought, nor any opportunity  
(officially provided) for his answer.  
Publicly Mr Moody has expressed the  
highest esteem for the character, fidelity,  
& teaching qualities of the Principal, &  
privately has insisted that his admin-  
istration has proved ineffective in  
such & such ways. Publicly Mr  
Moody says he knows no reason for  
Mr D's resignation but the latter's <sup>desire</sup>  
rest & change. Privately he makes strong  
objections to D's remaining in office.  
Mr D. is perfectly competent & prepared  
to refute every objection raised, & has  
the united support, respect & affection  
of his past & present students & faculty.  
Mr D. has scarcely uttered a word  
in self defence, save to a few intimates  
in private. He wd, at his own cost, avoid,  
if possible, giving the least occasion  
for any discredit to W.R. or the Board  
of Management. In a few days his re-  
signation will be publicly announced  
& his innumerable friends will  
want to know why?

It already letters are pouring in expressing amazement, distress & dismay, with some from persons better informed who have seen this crisis approaching - all of it due to over- head rulings that have obstructed & hurt the normal outcome of the administration.

I have known these two men very well - thro' many years in their every day life, & I know perfectly well the estimates made of both in town & school. Mr. D. has never deceived anybody, & nobody doubts his word. His students have had almost confidence in ~~the~~ his character & his methods. He has introduced a method of student government in substance & reality without ~~any~~ outward trappings & ~~visible~~ terms, whose very existence is denied by W.R. but whose efficiency, together with his personal influence, has reduced cases of discipline to the smallest percentage I ever heard of in so large a school, & claimed case after case of reckless indifference to order & study, & inspired ideas of practice of duty as right for their own sake instead of mere compliance with outward ~~requirements~~ <sup>or</sup> commands.

It let Harman be proved to be a teacher of the highest quality, but is occupied at the Sem, with only executive tasks. He has steadily grown into his work & with it, has extraordinary tact in handling girls as well as boys, & the next twelve years ought to be the highest best period of his whole service, if not subject to arbitrary interferences from an overlord without a fraction of Mr D's equipment, experience or success in academic problems.

A man big enough to handle a great fitting school is big enough to be on its Bd of Trustees, & have an equal voice in management with all the rest — equal at least.

Otherwise, being subject to interferences by one individual autocrat, he is certain to encounter injustice & obstruction, however good may be the intentions of the obstructor.

In my judgment, Mr D's administration has been exceptionally strong & good, despite these obstructions, & was as nearly perfect as any school administration ever was, if the remedy



Proposed in my Statement is adopted, however it will be next to impossible to find a successor to him who with equal character & equipment will unite & embody all the best traditions of this place - & also have a mind of his own, & is no mere echo. Furthermore, if we lose Mr D - we also lose his wife, who herself is an invaluable asset here, & hard to replace.

Now if the Trustees really care to know the values of the man they are throwing away on the chance of getting some one half so good, they should get acquainted with his own views in the present situation, & get his own explanation, while it is still possible to keep his resignation tentative. Even if this can't be done before the approaching Commencement, he might be assured in advance of that day that at the earliest date afterwards he shall have a perfectly fair hearing. This means at first, a confidential hearing with Trustees in the absence of Mr. & Mrs. Williams, & any other person opposed to his leaving or returning here after a year off, followed by

a hearing before the whole Board, or large majority, after the committee has reached a definite conclusion.

Anything less than this will be a flagrant injustice to one of the finest & most useful characters ever ~~also~~ connected with this work. With this hearing in prospect, he need only say of his resignation that he has no expectation of coming back, if it will still be possible a year hence. Otherwise he may be forced in self-defense to make a public statement, after commencement, which will inevitably weaken the public confidence in the management as controlled by W.C.M. & almost totally wreck that confidence as entertained by former students of both Schools. Everyone of them, men & women, will believe Mr D's explanation first, against every other made. A tremendous slump in the income of the school would follow & every department of summer & winter work here would be crippled - especially if controversy appears in the press. ~~How~~ All that can be avoided by the remedy - rather wise I feel not how.

If, after Mr D's own explanation has been privately received by

-The Trustees, they should conclude that a great mistake is being made in permitting the permanent loss to the School of such an asset as our Principal, is it possible that they could still consent to it without doing their best to recover lost ground? Could they not then bring all hands to bear in this matter, & to an amicable consent? He would adjust himself to the new order, & in that, he would, in my opinion, gain, instead of lose, in his good influence & service for the Schools. Without the least public humiliation, the change might humble him, & work in him a miracle of grace. He might even yet some day thank me for my part in it. Certainly, the Trustees ~~can~~ have it in their power to do him more good than any other human agency. He will listen to them more readily than to most others, & no possible harm to him or the Schools, but good only would result from the change, & put these Schools in line with the best fitting Schools & Courses.



But if this matter is allowed to drift  
along, & self evident justice never  
be done to Mr D. - the whole North<sup>o</sup>  
enterprise will suffer from that  
injustice from now on, to say  
nothing of the consciences of some  
responsible persons.

I cannot too much emphasize the  
risk run by the Trustees to  
- their own welfare, & that of all  
concerned, if this matter is  
not promptly settled on the  
fundamental principle of the  
moral equation. Not a man  
on the Bd would long tolerate the  
attitude toward himself ~~of~~ now  
shown to Mr D. who may soon  
prove to have a great host of  
indignant friends.

I am prepared to answer even to  
~~Mr. D.~~ for every word in my  
long statement, tho I trust that  
may not be necessary. It wd  
not add to his happiness or  
mine. The intimate testimony of  
~~of~~ many, & long observation on my  
own part have produced the results  
indicated by cumulative evidence;

tho I would not undertake to specify  
<sup>many</sup> instances nor witnesses, I could  
give a few outstanding facts that  
cover all the rest. I certainly  
don't want to do it; & the worst I  
might say, would not at all lessen  
my personal interest in his welfare,  
nor my wish for opportunity to give it  
visible proof.

If the new order that I see sh<sup>d</sup> come,  
I heartily believe it will prove a  
new epoch of great good to W. R. A.,  
& his old friends would be more  
his friends than ever; & he would  
win many new ones among those  
(& they are many) who are anything  
but friendly now.

I know how extremely preoccu-  
pied you are with other matters;  
but you probably possess a much  
larger acquaintance than other  
members of the Board, with prob-  
lems in Education; & for that rea-  
son, & your deep interest in the  
memories & future of this place, I  
trust it may be possible for you  
to take the time needed to give

your efficient aid & counsel in  
starting a new decade of ~~the~~  
surpassing excellence for build-  
ing up out of this sad crisis this  
noble planting of the Lord at the  
hands of his servant J. L. Moody.  
Nothing but years of love & prayer -  
& effort in behalf of Worthfield on  
my own part, has ever led me  
to take present action in the ef-  
ficiency here; I believe tho' my  
method may have blundered, I  
trust my purpose may be justi-  
fied, & the end sought maybe  
gained.

Very cordially yours

Henry Wm Parkin.

Ret. 74. Pardon something to age & sickness;  
try to out year in health since 1900

P.S. Please let John de<sup>d</sup> Dowell  
read all I have written  
about this.



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FILING DEPT.

JUN 8 1925

346  
SECRETARIES

June 4, 1925

Mr. Henry W. Rankin,  
East Northfield, Mass.

My dear Mr. Rankin:

Since returning from the General Assembly I received your letters of May 28th and June 1st. As you request I am showing these two letters and the preceding letter which came to me in Columbus, to John McDowell. I returned from Columbus only a week ago and have been away a good part of the time since then and shall have to be away today and tomorrow but I hope to come up on the midnight train on Friday in order to be present at the meeting of the Board of Trustees at the schools on Saturday.

It has been impossible for me to do anything in the matter of which you have written and I could not see that the course of action you suggested was wise or right. This whole matter, as I understand, has been under the consideration of members of the Board of Trustees who have gone into the facts and who are familiar with the problem, as I am not. I shall be at the meeting on Saturday, however, to hear what may be said then, and am sure that the Board of Trustees will have, as they have had from the beginning, no other purpose than to do what they believed was in the best interests of the schools.

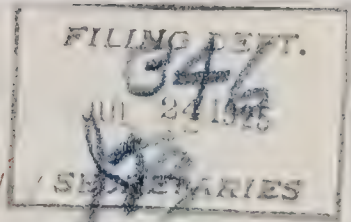
I could not see my way to do anything further, except by making full use of your letters, showing them to the Board of Trustees, to Will and Ambert, and to Dr. Dickerson and Dr. Cutler. As I understand from your letters, I am at liberty to show them only to John McDowell, which, as you request, I have done.

With kind regards always,

Very sincerely yours,

RES-KC

W. W. Rastine



E. North's care

May 4. 1915

Dear Mr. Spear,

Just one word more.

The four Trustees whom I addressed with my long statement of affairs here —

I want to meet them privately face to face, & answer for every word that I have written.

Let them ask any questions they please, for I am ready to prove that an irretrievable injury hangs over it all,

if the mischief is not very shortly stopped — as it can be. if the Trustees will give

a fair hearing to the personal  
testimony Mr Dickerson &  
myself can give.

A wicked injustice has  
been done to Mr Dickerson,  
which if it had been done  
to any one of you would  
have forced my anger &  
my answer in the same  
way. If it had been done  
to Mr Cutler instead of  
Mr Dickerson — nay, if  
it had been done to Mr  
Moody himself, I would  
not have kept silence.

The Trustees will despise  
my testimony at their peril,  
— at their peril as official  
guardians of this work.



of which work the deepest interests are menaced by the high handed method of discharging Mr Dickerson.

The truth that he can tell & that I can tell, if told in public, would work forever the public confidence in Mr. Moody as a competent overlord in this enterprise.

He is faulting his own nest by throwing out Dickerson, than whom neither school has ever had a more admirable or more efficient helper.

Of the two Principals - both good executives - Dickerson is far the larger man in spirit & equipment, in resources of wise initiative. But he has a mind of his own - exactly

I all the past & future interests of this place. If the Trust as the  
I adapt my remedy, Mr. B. will get the name for my part in this

The kind wanted here - His  
irreplaceable. On the basis  
chance of getting a successor  
only half so good <sup>as subscribers</sup> & Dickens  
is thrown at, just as <sup>he</sup> has reach-  
ed the top of his experience,  
ability & value, with a splen-  
did record behind him, to  
which the next decade ought  
to yield the crowning sequel,  
& best period of his entire  
service.

The announcement  
of his resignation can be under-  
stood as tentative in mind of  
the Trustees, if they notify him  
of an unembarrassed opportunity  
at the first convenient date  
after Commencement to make  
his own explanation. Mr. B.  
has not asked to nor suggested  
that I write anything or say any-  
thing to the Trustees. He knows  
very little of what I have written  
; nothing of this. I have done it pri-  
vately alone of the man, the woman,

affair, however objections it may seem to arise from Mr. B. Writing of Mr. Harding

I incline to think better  
not but are not clear.

Crossatt knows many  
aspects of this & has been  
in correspondence with  
Mr Rankin, may I suggest  
that you ask him

By



I feel that Washburn knows only  
part of the facts. I have  
written him that I hardly like  
his thrust that if the trustees  
do not do as he proposes  
he will appeal to Dickens  
friends to take action.

I told him that this was a  
matter for the trustees to handle  
and should receive the support of  
all friends of the school. If he would  
do this I thought they should elect  
new trustees. I hardly think it should  
be mentioned here. A. C. C. C.

You have been in touch with Mr. Rankin

I think. Will you read the letter and

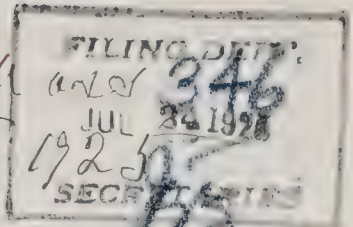
tell me whether you think any action

should be taken of it by me here?

Spec.

H. W. Raubin

C. W. North Jr  
June 15, 1925



My dear Mr Spear;

You will hardly be inclined to welcome any more communications from me, after all the distress I have caused you. But I must acknowledge my grateful appreciation of your action in looking me up, & giving me opportunity of direct testimony to conditions here. The time was too short for me to make any adequate statement, & with my perpetual headache serious talking is difficult. I am always forgetting what I wish to say, & saying what I do not need to say. Writing is easier - though too easy. Of course I would have found a better way of approaching the Trustees than that I employed, but for this broken state of my health I mean.



The shortness of time after I first  
learned of Mr Dickerson's dedica-  
tion, the grave menace of the  
situation to the Schools, my in-  
crease indignation at the meth-  
od used to get rid of Mr D.,  
the gross injustice done to him,  
& gross injury to the Schools  
in value, ~~made me~~ convinced  
me of the painful obligation I  
was under to write as I did  
to you & other Trustees, as a last  
resort, to save this work, at  
any cost to my own future com-  
fort in this place. In doing it  
I was well aware that any report  
of my ~~own~~ words to the Trustees  
would be in a manner painful  
to both of us; that he wd be cer-  
tain to misunderstand my motives,  
misrepresent me to others, & at  
his pleasure drive me out of town.  
I wished all this to save the  
Schools & secure his own ultimate  
good.

Had I been a well man I would long  
since & freely have worn & him  
face to face of his injustice & the  
consequences sure to follow. But  
again, if I were a well man, I  
might easily be of much more  
service to this work than ever in  
the past, & he w'd have been constrain-  
ed to listen to me — as his father  
always did from a sense of per-  
sonal obligation. W. R. never for  
a moment entertained this attitude  
to me, & only because I have long  
been disabled. As it was, I could  
not trust myself to talk to him on  
— these matters, & took the only way  
that seemed to me open for persua-  
ding the Trustees, that until the  
Principals of these Schools are  
made responsible to the entire  
Board, instead of being mere  
pawns in the hands of one man,  
misunderstandings, injustice, &  
want of full coöperation between the  
Trustees & Principals wd be inevitable  
& perpetual — as they have

been ever since the death of D. Lill.  
If within a year of that event both  
Principals had been put on the Board  
- while W.R. was yet a callow College  
youth - much blundering wd have  
been avoided, & both Schools  
wd be today, in a much more  
perfect state of efficiency than  
they are. Even Mr Cutler, who  
usually shows no open disappro-  
val of any the conditions W.R.  
may make, wd have ~~have~~ im-  
proved his larger liberty to  
improve the Boys' School.

Nevertheless, when I was called  
to account by W.R. I not only  
told him that I was ready to  
answer for every word I wrote,  
but I may have convinced him  
that my whole former & perpetual  
relation to this enterprise was far  
more intimate than he supposed,  
& gave me the right to address  
the Trustees as I did, not only  
in the interest of the Schools but  
in his own,



I am exceedingly sorry to have felt  
thus constrained in conscience  
to write the severe things I wrote  
of <sup>you</sup> ~~you~~. But I am not ashamed  
of <sup>having</sup> written them, & will answer  
to God & man for every word.

Mr. R. tried to refute my remarks  
about his Brother Paul & Miss Hall,  
& denied that I had any evidence  
accusing me of malicious falsehoods.  
But before I was done with him he  
was fast saying that I had evi-  
dence enough from Paul's own  
lips, & Miss Hall's own words to  
me, besides the intimate testimo-  
ny of others; ~~while~~ the things said  
by Mr. R. to offset my assertions  
were true, but irrelevant, and  
now his treatment of Mr. Dickerson  
makes the climax of what has gone  
before, until he recognizes the  
very great injustice done to Mr. D.,  
the callous insensibility ~~of~~ <sup>Mr. R.</sup> has  
shown to obligations he ~~never~~ can  
repay for the kind & measure of

proofs of rare efficiency & splendid  
results in Mr D's administration,  
are ignored by W.R. & passed  
over at Commencement without  
one word on his part of public  
acknowledgment for obligations thus  
incurred.

The Smith College examiner,  
finding her questionnaire ~~un-~~  
cilessly ridiculed by the North  
teachers as a crude, inept & ir-  
relevant effort to get at the act-  
ual conditions, has requested that  
every copy of her report be  
destroyed, yet even that report,  
by stating that the Seminary morals  
was the highest she had ever known  
in any school, gave the highest  
kind of tribute to Mr Dickerson's  
efficiency. For no result is so  
much desired, & so hard to reach  
~~as~~ in any school as this to which  
the examiner bears witness; & if  
you should read the letters sent to  
Mr D. by the Alumni Assn &

the recent Senior Class, you would  
instantly recognize the quality of  
his influence on the life of the  
students — an influence in which  
W.P.M. is totally lacking.

Yet so far as I can gather, this  
Examininers Report, & the superfi-  
cial observations & inferences made  
by W.P. himself, constitute the sole  
excuse or pretext for not urging  
Mr D to return to this work, with  
deep regrets for all misunder-  
standings.

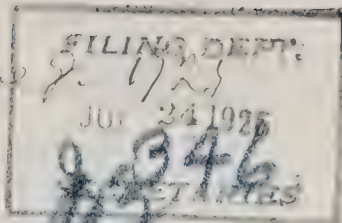
official  
That no ~~public~~ recognition of  
Mr D's great service to both Schools  
has been made <sup>publicly</sup> has stirred  
most of the H. Sem on Faculty  
to deep anger, & the fact that  
the Trustees have yet to ask  
Mr D. for his own defense to  
be given at an embarrassed  
hearing, shows him condemned  
without a hearing by presumably  
the most Christian Corporation  
in the land. God will  
avenge that man, if the Trustees  
will not. Fiat justitia ruat caelum!  
most sincerely yrs - H. W. Rankin

All that I have written you show to John W. Dowell



H. W. Rankin

L. W. Hillebrand June 24 1925



My dear Dr. Spruce,

I made no attempt to detain you  
last evening after the Chapel  
Service - for I thought you had  
had all you could stand,  
for one day. But there may  
be no further opportunity for  
an interview, & I will add  
a few words here:

First, of J. B. Taylor, & then  
Richardson. There is a supple-  
mentary part about Taylor, added  
after the first memoir. I think  
the two should be critically  
edited & bound up in one vol.,  
with some further notes of intro-  
duction regarding the influence  
of these books on a general evalua-  
tion of the Cicerone. I think a  
number of notable instances might

we found.

Nothing is more significant of  
Faglar — or <sup>rather,</sup> more alligial —

— than the fact that all his work  
was done as a layman. After  
preparing for the ministry he did  
not live to enter it. His work  
began in his fitting school (Law  
recessed) continued thro  
his college days & the first yr  
of his course in the law.

Furthermore, this religious work  
did not prevent, but rather pro-  
duced, his becoming the first  
Scholar of his college class,

Now as to Dickerson; the vote  
taken to have the Principals meet  
after attend<sup>all</sup> sessions of Trustees  
promote justice for the future,  
but does not remove the injus-  
tice done to Dickerson.

After an administration of  
14 yrs that most persons wd  
regard as an exceptionality

For a trial & success, & examples  
of efficiency, he leaves ~~himself~~<sup>himself</sup>  
with the stigma of inefficiency  
based on charges that he is  
competent to refute, & on which  
he has had no hearing. He  
is condemned without a hear-  
ing on trumped up charges  
that will not bear lifting;  
& this makes the sole pretext  
for his not being asked to  
remain. ~~in it~~

No acknowledgment is made  
to him of obligations that not  
trustees & no cash can ever  
repay, for work that has not  
only been faithful in the high-  
est degree, but work that has  
produced magnificent results  
known to hundreds of his old  
pupils in both schools & to  
many past & present teachers  
on the unwarranted & un-



How serious is the injustice to him of calling it  
"Sincerely Wm. W. Parker"

picion or pretense of A'ing-  
piciency as an exponent,  
he carries no written testimo-  
nial, beyond a high char-  
acter, to aid him in  
pending future work. Just  
at the time when he is most  
fitted to carry forward the  
thought school to results far  
passing all the past, he is  
thrown out on the bare chance  
of finding a suitable successor.  
What if we get into another war,  
finance is nearly wrecked,  
how will a new head conduct  
the situation here? Yet Dickerson,  
so long this work, its memories  
& products. That, having some means  
of his own, he wd serve it at  
no charge at all, sooner than  
see the school decline. Find a  
new man to do that or so able  
to inspire others with his own cou-  
age! He is every such a man - &  
the cost of him wd be the greatest loss  
we can suffer since the death of the founder  
(School)

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JUN 25 1925

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SECRETARIES

Dictated 6/23/25

June 24, 1925

Mr. Henry W. Rankin,  
East Northfield, Mass.

*re. Dr. Dickerson of Northfield School*

My dear Mr. Rankin:

Your letters of June 4th, 8th and 15th have all been received and I am sending them to Dr. McDowell as you requested.

I was very glad to see you at Northfield and also to meet Dr. Dickerson several times. I have always had, and have now, a very deep regard and affection for him and Mrs. Dickerson, and I admire the Christian way in which he has met and is meeting this very trying experience.

I trust the right person may be found to succeed to his difficult position. The right kind of men and women for such places, however, are very, very few. The Notchkiss School has been seeking now for a year for a new Principal and it looks as though it would have to go on seeking still for another year.

I was in Princeton Sunday a week ago at the Centennial of the Philadelphian Society and tried to pay tribute to James Brainerd Taylor. I read over again, in preparation, the Memoir of Taylor and the later tribute, copies of which you gave me many years ago.

With kind regard,

Very sincerely yours,

HEG-KC

Henry W. Parker

E. Northford

July 20

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JUL 23 1926

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SECRETARIES

My dear Mr. Spear

I have reason to be grateful that my painful communications do not seem to have given you offence, & that your replies show the greatest cordiality & patient consideration.

If I have made any mistake in this Northford affair, it may be due to my much impaired health; for certainly it was not been the habit of my life to say hard things about my fellows such as I have said in the last two years. But never before have I been under such intense provocations cry aloud & spare not.

Mr. Robert E. Spear, Bigelow St. N.Y.



So I have not the slightest ill  
will toward Will Hoody, or  
to anybody else in this place,  
I would gladly retract,  
retract & acknowledge any  
obvious misstatement I may  
have made, & make the best  
amends in my power.

All the Hoody<sup>people</sup> think I have  
made some grievous mis-  
statements; but no one has  
shown per cily wherein I was  
wrong — except that one two or  
three occasions I have said  
too much where I was overheard,  
& have consequently been misquoted,  
& my whole act<sup>ion</sup> misunder-  
stood. I have no quarrel with  
any but one man, & with him for  
his own good; & but for my state  
of health & the shortness of time  
before Commencement appears  
in which to address the Trustees,  
I would have spoken to Will  
himself first of any, tho' he  
would not have listened. I might

Trace headed off any good I might  
hope to accomplish with the Board.  
I have spoken plainly of Will's short  
comings & of Dickerson's merits, but  
not that I have seen no good in Will  
or no defects in Dickerson, I have  
thus spoken solely in order to convince  
the Trustees & other responsible persons  
that W. R. ~~has~~ is unfitted for the  
autocratic function he has exercised  
in dealing with educational problems,  
& with men who are in every sense  
his peers; also to show that whatever  
Mr Dickerson's faults may be, his posi-  
tive values to ~~the~~ these schools all of  
35 years, so far outweigh his faults  
that if possible he should have been  
retained, & justice is still due him  
for values he received. The prosperity,  
good order & good fruit of the Girls'  
School have not in the least diminished,  
but have increased during all the  
years of Mr Dickerson's charge, &  
would have increased considerably  
more if he had been differently han-  
dled. The <sup>executive</sup> work of the Sem. has grown  
very onerous, & has taxed the strength  
of the Principal to the utmost. In all  
his 35 years at the two schools he  
had but two short six months pe-  
riods of change from continuous

routine. He was getting exceedingly  
tired, & has not been altogether well.  
But his worst affliction during the last  
half of his service at the Sem, has  
been in the personal attitude of his  
overlord. For the first time in several  
years he enjoyed last winter the best of  
health. When Will gets home,  
your son will doubtless learn the  
full catalogue of Mr D's offenses  
& of mine - too heinous to recount.  
~~But I sh~~ Let him see what I here  
write. I shall continue to plead  
the mercies of God for Will & my  
as well as for myself so long  
as breath remains; & there was  
never a time when I would not  
gladly have done for Will any  
kindness in my power, that I thought  
w'd do him any good. All I lack  
is the power, tho' I have done much  
<sup>more</sup> of this than he ever knew. Approving  
his conduct in many things would  
be no kindness at all. W. has been  
greatly successful in raising money, & there  
his great success. But even raising money de-  
pends on a constant appeal to the intrinsic  
merit of work done in the school by its faculty  
under the lead of a highly efficient Principal.  
What makes the chief value of education at the Sem  
many is the Christian influence felt by the students.  
& Mr D. has exerted more of that influence of late  
years than anybody else connected with the school.  
Believe me,  
Yours truly, Henry W. Rankin.



P.S. If in any measure Will  
 Moody's illness is due to his  
 mental reaction from my conduct,  
 the fault lies, I think, not with  
 what I wrote in confidence to  
 the Trustees, but in the betrayal  
 of that confidence. If what I  
 wrote was true, or in large  
 measure true, it was only what  
 a Committee of Trustees ought to  
 know; & such a committee  
 by informal conference, might  
 have secured all the official ac-  
 tion necessary without even  
 mentioning my letter to any  
 but a few members of the Board.  
 Least of all was it necessary  
 to quote my action to the man  
 who made it needful. So  
 doing has permanently marred  
 my relation to North & his peace  
 of mind. Until that occurred  
 no body ever had happier re-  
 lations with this place & doubt-  
 -less I ~~have~~ had for more

than forty years. But if I did my  
duty, all these troubles will be  
overruled for good, by the  
only overlord whom I acknowledge  
edge. I told Will & Andy when  
he faced me a year ago May  
that God himself would settle  
our controversy in his own way,  
& I was quite content to have  
him do it. God has been  
doing it ever since that day,  
He may even yet give me  
a chance to prove my love  
for ~~this place~~ all the interests  
of this place; & he is my  
refuge, he is my dwelling place,  
he is my *Suum cuique* Bonum

How glad I am that Dr Patton  
has at last got out one book  
for which many have been  
forty years waiting. He calls  
himself neither a modernist  
nor a fundamentalist, but  
both sorts need to get that  
book by heart. No one

could ever have put my own atti-  
tude to this debate better than he  
has done - altho I am not a  
Chalcedonian. Far better that  
decision of Council, even if not  
~~all~~ the best possible, than most  
solutions of the problem of Christ  
since Athanasius. I have never  
been able thus far to see that the  
formula of two natures is required  
by the data. I wd say that

Christ is not God and man, two  
natures welded in one person, nor  
God in man, only in the sense that  
God is in all men; but God  
as man, assuming our condi-  
tions. If we are his offspring why  
must <sup>he</sup> assume our nature. The great  
~~er~~ includes the less, & there is  
nothing in our nature but its  
limits foreign to God's own nature.  
He did not have to take our nature  
to understand us, but because he  
is the father of our nature, & did  
not understand us, therefore he assumed

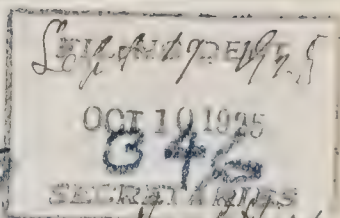


→ so well emphasized by Dante.

our conditions. He was made in the likeness of man, not identical with man; but became man only by putting himself in our place. The social constitution of the Godhead made this possible: since God is not only the dynamical Absolute, rational Absolute & moral Absolute, but also the social Absolute, or absolute Society; which <sup>again</sup> alone makes possible ~~for~~ the absolute perfection or complete-ness & self-sufficiency of his <sup>own</sup> personality. Having this constitution of his own nature, it was possible for him by a voluntary self-limitation to submit to incarnation, without any depletion of his intrinsic Godhead. Cur Deus homo? Because by no other possible means could he exemplify the sacrificial quality of his love, which he calls on us to share, nor without self-sacrifice could he possibly be at once just & the justifier of them that believe. He must himself be both the Redeemer & the Ransom, to make up for our shortage.

Action & reaction is just as sure & equal in morals as in physics - in the long run.

W. H. R. ...  
E. V. ...



My dear Dr. Spear

of 15<sup>th</sup> at hand - No 7 that  
you know, the main purpose of all  
that I have written has been to in-  
dicate what I believe to be the  
only valid basis of ~~some~~ the  
construction in the management  
of the schools. Or incidentally to  
do some justice for Mr. Dickerson.  
When once I have made myself  
clear, I shall say no more.  
I have been too long & closely  
connected with this work, & even  
during some years of absence, to  
refrain from protest, or from  
pointing out the source of trouble &  
its remedy. I think this source  
& remedy are both so palpably  
obvious that no mistake need  
be made in pointing them out, &  
I have loved these interests too  
well not to do so. This alone  
has been my motive, & not personal  
ill will to any one. My whole past  
life here proves the contrary of that.

But in the 44 years since my first coming here I have been readen no such perororation <sup>before</sup> to cry aloud & spare not. I have spoken in the fear of God, & not in the fear of man, knowing well that if I were reported, as I have been, it would spoil the comfort of all my pastoral relation to this place, where hitherto I have always lived with the welcome of the whole community. If I had not faced Will Moody with a clear conscience he wd have trodden me under foot, (but I left him considerably subdued,) as he has done to others even when they were right & he was wrong. Such an instance occurred only within a few days, when a good man, & former German student, who has for some yrs superintended the Campus, & cared for the buildings, threw up his position because he cd no longer tolerate the total inconsideration & arrogance with wh' he was treated. This has hapessed several times in



other years. The principles to the  
enforcement of which by the X<sup>th</sup> Church  
John C. Powell is devoting his ef-  
forts, have small recognition here  
in the relation of employer & employed,  
whether in the School or on the farm.  
I have taken it upon myself to warn  
the Trustees with a plainness that  
no one else, so far as I know, would  
venture to use. If my warning is wrong,  
or based on ignorance, they do well  
to disregard it, but if right, & based  
on a pretty close knowledge of the  
facts, they will disregard it to their  
own sorrow. The first & indispen-  
sable condition of a good understand-  
ing & cooperation between the Trustees  
& the Schools is to make the two prin-  
cipals responsible to the whole Board  
in session, & no longer responsi-  
ble to one autocratic member of the  
Board. This is the sole basis for  
any adequate reconstruction here.  
The more will Waddy is confirmed  
in his present exercise of power  
& authority, the more overbearing he  
will be, the more blunders he will  
make. He wants everybody on

his papers, to be a flunkey, I have no  
mind of ~~his~~ <sup>his</sup> way, nor direct control of  
affairs on any other basis, & for direct  
control of these educational problems,  
he has not the instinct, the tact, the  
temperament, the equipment or the  
moral character. If the things I say  
of him are false or mistaken, let me  
suffer all the punishment due. If they  
are true, no sound reconstruction  
of the schools here is possible on any other  
terms than such as I have named.  
In saying these things I have only done  
a favor to the Trustees; & they have  
been said to save the Trustees, the  
Schools & W. R. himself from the con-  
sequences of his own folly. He has wrought  
folly in this place, & sooner or later you  
will all know it. He has done the  
Seminary an irreparable harm, & grie-  
vous injustice to a man as able &  
deserving as any person ever connect-  
ed <sup>with</sup> this work - after the Founder.  
How can we expect God's favor in the  
past measure on an enterprise suf-  
fering under an unacknowledged, un-  
repented injustice such as this? Any  
man who hurts a child of God's will  
will God hurt. My action was meant,  
if possible as far as possible to pre-  
vent or lessen the harm done before it was  
too late. Unhappily my action was too late.  
The Deacons will do their best, but compared with  
the Dickersons they are light weight. Truly, W. R.

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Dictated 9/14/25

September 15, 1925

Mr. Henry W. Rankin,  
East Northfield, Mass.

My dear Mr. Rankin:

Your long letter of September 1st with reference to the Seminary and Dr. Dickerson and Mr. Woody has been received and read with care. Mr. Sulkley has not yet returned from Europe, so I cannot show it to him, but I am sending it to Mr. Crossett in Boston, and shall be glad, when I get it back, to show it, as you request, to Dr. McJowell who has also seen all your preceding letters on the subject.

I have, as you know, nothing but the warmest regard and good will for Dr. Dickerson and also for you, but viewing the whole situation as honestly as I can, I do not believe that any good can be accomplished by attempting to get the Trustees to reconsider the actions which have been taken, or by maintaining an agitation against those actions or against Will Woody. I am sure that all of us who are genuinely devoted to the Seminary and to Mr. D. L. Moody's memory will do best by seeking to build constructively on what we now have and not by countenancing any further criticisms or recriminations.

With kind regard,

Very sincerely yours,

MS-20



Ms. S per.

Henry W. Rankin

Form 3623

**CROSS REFERENCE SHEET**

**FILE NO.** 346

**SUBJECT** re. Fund being raised to help  
Mr. Rankin financially

**SEE**

**FILE NO.** 200 -

**LETTER OF** Rev. Thomas Coyle

**DATED** Jan 1, 1926

ans. Jan 6, 1926

FILING DEPT.

FEB 23 1926

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SECRETARIES

February 20, 1926

Mr. Henry W. Rankin,  
East Northfield,  
Mass.

My dear Mr. Rankin,

I am very much obliged to you for the copy of Mr. Bradford's letter to you and for the clipping regarding Mrs. Imbrie. I had not heard before that she was making claim for this additional indemnity. Our missionaries in Teheran will be very much interested in this development. I shall look forward with the greatest pleasure to seeing Mr. Bradford's biographical study of Mr. Moody when it appears. I have read many of his books and articles. Such a study as his of Mr. Moody ought to be of the very greatest interest.

I return herewith the letter from Miss Hall of Mt. Holyoke which you wished me to send back.

I am sharing all these recent letters of yours with Dr. McDowell, and am asking him to write you with regard to any judgment of his after reading them.

With kind regard,

Very sincerely yours,

BES:C.

Henry W. Rankins

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March

~~103~~

de, de & Spear

This is not about Northp.

I write to ask for the address of  
 Jan de la Cruz, my old friend, in  
 his youth, who I suppose is now  
 in Brazil. I had not seen him  
 in many years until he appeared  
 at the August Conference here the  
 year before last. He was hoping  
 to return to Brazil by way of China  
 & India where he wished to visit  
 Walter Lawrie & Ramey, former  
 - his early association in college  
 Henry & Schaefer teaching in Madison,  
 Wis., has had most favorable results,  
 and in Madison I came to know  
 them all well. I had known Lonnie  
 as a child in Shanghai, whose father  
 died & knew his mother & sister. When  
 his uncle Walter was shown & by mistake  
 his grandfather Walter, looked up my



father then attending college, I persuaded  
him to prepare for China to fill the  
vacancy left by the death of the son,  
when young Walter had attended col-  
lege he meant to be a lawyer, until  
that first visit to America of Dr  
Moody changed his mind. McCosh  
was the first college President to  
give Dr L a free chance, & full co-  
operation in dealing with boys at  
college. Walter went to Madison  
to assist the Principal of a boys' school  
& succeeded the Principal as Provie-  
sor, Maclean followed to act as  
aid to Walter, & later when Walter  
entered the Sem, Janvier went to  
help Maclean. Janvier was the  
only one of the three wholly committed  
to foreign missions at that time, but  
all three came under the strong  
missionary influence & instruction  
of my mother, & my stepfather Dr  
McKinam - whose monthly concerts  
were meetings of ease for the mission  
field in all its branches: we all  
attended all churches. They were invari-  
ably worth a long journey to attend,  
Maclean finally heard of them

Academy of Brazil, & that settlement,  
I had had a medical course in the  
I had broken down in health, & had  
spent a winter with the de'Caetes in  
Japan - the year of '67 when the last  
stand was made for the old regime  
by the Duke of Salinas, & the last  
battle was fought with some narrow  
& the old regime (if I remember rightly).  
An intensely interesting period of the  
most rapid transition in that country  
& the high power in which Dr de'Caetes  
stood with the Government gave him  
some good opportunities.

Now - the three dear old teachers  
are all Presidents of Mission  
Colleges - in three countries, and  
how I had like to see them all  
again. Please send me also  
the Gen. Louie's address  
You doubtless see the Bible So-  
ciety Record. The March num-  
ber has a letter from Brazil  
by Dr Tucker on the defect of two  
Proposed Amendments to the Con-  
stitution.

Yr truly  
Henry W. Rantier

W. North & Co

March 11,

|               |
|---------------|
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| SECRETARIES   |

My dear Mr Spear,

I shall be sorry if my letter may weary you, but contains a few more remarks on the North's situation. What the outcome may be for the health of Will Moody, I suppose nobody knows, but it seems to me unlikely that he will ever be well enough to resume his old tasks, or, if so, to follow them long.

This letter calls for no answer, but only for your consideration.

I suppose the exigency is such that in any case the Trustees will have to make some prompt preparation for the coming year. It is <sup>just</sup> a year ago that I first learned of Mr Dickerson's resignation, & began my long communication to the Board. If the statements there made are substantially correct, I hope they may be made fully known to ~~all~~ <sup>that</sup> all members of the Bd, so far as <sup>that</sup> may



be helpful to future action. If a committee alone wd suffice to give ~~the~~ <sup>its</sup> attention to the details of that letter, it wd not be necessary to have it read by all persons on the Bd. The main principles involved, & their bearing on school government could be urged, without extending further than necessary the humiliating facts that have brought about the present crisis. If my letter had not been reported to Will bloody ~~the~~ his own distress in the matter might have been escaped entirely. But I hope that Mr Buckley has perused the letter, & before now has given close attention to the whole of it. Painful as the reading may be. I did not know, when writing it, how far the Bd was committed to the policy of its President, or some things might have been spoken differently. But I still think that most of its contents are valid, & will bear, if any doubt exists, the closest investigation. I am ready, & no doubt Mr Richardson is ready, to answer any questions the Trustees or old students may care to put in the premises.

I certainly think the Board owes it to  
Mr Dickenson to obtain officially from  
him his own reasons for resigning,  
& his own account of the whole situa-  
tion as he understands it, beyond  
the statements of his formal reports.  
~~is~~ Some members of last year's fac-  
ulty were also close enough to the  
facts either to disprove or corrobor-  
ate what either Mr Dickenson or  
I may say. If the Bd. has any deter-  
mination to do full justice to the  
School, & the individuals concerned  
- the statements made by any of us  
shd be sifted to the bottom. I shall  
be only glad to retract any of  
my own statements if they were  
disproved, & will make the best  
amends in my power to Mr D. or  
anybody else who may have been wronged  
by me - for all I want is justice  
for the School, & justice for any  
& all who may have been wronged.  
- if even tho I shd have to do without  
it myself.

I think the change I have urged  
in the method of administration

2

He left the school at the culmination of its public reputation, with a measure of confidence & grateful admiration on the part of the students in his case such as only is given to the best. He was, beyond question, the strongest living link between the school & its founder. No one else had a fraction of his personal influence in maintaining among both students & teachers the memory & aims of the founder, together with the best academic ideals. The evidence for both facts is all that could be wished, & easily ascertained. This eminent, by good influence was also shared by his wife, & they constituted two pillars of the school permanent, such as are almost impossible to replace.

Moreover the value of the man was only greatly enhanced by that independence of mind which was regarded as his chief offense.

This made him exceptionally fitted for this singular position. Combined as it was with the experienced wisdom & tact of an educational expert,

Even in his personal relation to Mr. D. if he had not shown unusual tact & consideration, he wd have left the place years ago.

His predecessor, Miss Hall



she also had had a kind of her own, enough so to make her own relation to <sup>work</sup> strained that she also offered to resign. He refused to accept her resignation, & told her she should remain here for life - Not because he liked her, but because she had been so great a favorite with his parents & with the Alumnae that he dreaded the odium which would follow him if she left the school, but altho she remained here he did nothing to increase her comfort, & even if her judgment, or Mr. Dickey's <sup>views</sup> were at fault in any matter they were both entitled to state their own views to the Trustees, & follow the ruling of the whole Bd. rather than the sole dictation of one person connected with it.

The two principals sh<sup>d</sup> be recognized as the colleagues of all the Trustees, & agents for the entire Board, not as the private employees of Will Moody, or anybody else who may succeed him as financial agent or as President of the Bd. on that pt I have surely said enough - also on the primary relation of the Principal to the finances of the school.

It is what the Principal accomplishes

with a school that makes raising the money either possible or worth while.

It is one thing to advertise the goods, & another to produce what is worth advertising. The Principal of a great fitting school, may not be personally fitted for the post; but his office is not secondary to any other connected with it; & when the office is well filled, no one sh<sup>d</sup> take precedence of the Principal. Not only the Principal, but every person on the faculty sh<sup>d</sup> have right of appeal, & full access to the Board of Trustees in any question involving justice; & they sh<sup>d</sup> be freely told this, & invited to answer for themselves.

Whether or not W. S. returns to his desk, these principles of administration sh<sup>d</sup> surely be employed as matter of common sense & common justice. That whether he returns or not, some amends ought to be made to Mr Dickerson - official amends for the shameful way he has been treated. More over, if W. S. sh<sup>d</sup> change his mind about it, or sh<sup>d</sup> be disabled for resuming his own task, & Mr Dickerson co

be persuaded to come back here —  
what better alternative could he find?  
Nothing would persuade him to return un-  
less W. H. acknowledges his own mis-  
take, or is himself out of office. In  
view of possible contingencies, I wish  
Mr Dickenson might be approached.  
A year or two out of pocket should make  
him better than ever prepared to re-  
sume it. Why won't you yourself make  
an appointment with him, spend two or  
three hours with him for mutual enlight-  
enment? Call at his own house if  
you can. It will well reward you.

Also do your best to get all the trustees  
fully acquainted with his credentials.  
I'd now one thing more. I do not know  
what present limit of numbers the Board  
may have, but at the first possible  
moment, Paul Moody & Fitt should  
be reelected, & after them John Mc-  
Dowell. There are also alumnus  
of the Sem. whose qualifications for  
membership are considerably better  
than those exemplified at present  
on the Bd.

Sincerely yours  
Wm. W. Rankin



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MAR 25 1926

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SECRETARIES

March 24, 1926.

Mr. Henry W. Rankin,  
E. Northfield, Mass.

My dear Mr. Rankin:

Your note asking for Dr. Don Maclaren's address is just received. It is 79 Rua Maria Antonia, San Paulo, Brazil, S. A.

It was very good to have your recollections of him and of Walter Lowry and Rodney Janvier. Are you not mistaken, however, in speaking of them as ~~af~~ Presidents of Mission Colleges? Dr. Lowry is not in educational work, his work has always been that of an evangelist, until during the last few years he has been Chairman of the China Council for the Central Executive Committee of all our missions in China. Dr. Maclaren also is not a College President but has been connected with the Union Theological Seminary in Rio. Rodney Janvier, however, is President, as you know, of the Ewing Christian College and the college seems to be enjoying greater prosperity and influence now than ever before.

Very cordially yours,

RES/JBG

H. E. Rankin

E. North

March 26



Dear Dr. Spear - Thank<sup>you</sup> for your  
address, & your correction of my  
mistake - I have had the impression  
a long time - can't recall how  
I got it, that those three men were  
the ~~past~~ College Presidents, that  
you had been such before Lord's coming  
to Brazil, & was returning to residence  
in that part. But if President of  
a Med. Society, that's not far dif-  
ferent. But is there any other  
Walter Lawrie in China than the  
man we refer to? I must have  
been misinformed a long time since,  
any way that those men are  
gone. I knew Dr. Chamberlain well  
during his North's residence, & his  
daughter Laura, whom with her  
children I wd love to see again.  
Her husband called on me some  
18 or 20 yrs ago when I still occu-  
pied my house in this place.  
Walter's address you didn't send  
me. Once more at least,

before too late. I want to communicate  
with each one of these old friends.

A letter from Mrs Dickerson tells  
me her husband has been well  
all winter for the first time in  
years, & is beginning Spring work about  
his place that will bring a new  
life. They have greatly enjoyed the  
renovated house, & have connect-  
ed the meadows with a local Lutheran  
Church that is very old - I think  
a century. In the old homestead  
they have added a room for their  
books 40 x 15 ft, with south west  
exposure. It will be hard to  
be an hour away from this  
retirement, leisure & charm of early  
associations, both in New Jersey, &  
in Maine where they have a summer  
place near the early home of Mrs D.

But their service is too valuable  
to be left unused, & ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> not  
likely to be so left long. Mr D  
has already been rec'd good offers,  
including one as Dean of a College,



in function that he exercised here  
with signal success in addition  
to his other duties. But the exhaust-  
ing cares of his manifold office  
here were less wearing on his health  
perhaps than the unnatural isolation  
in which he stood to his critical over-  
sight. Had he endured it ~~and~~ with  
a sweet & patient temper, of great fidel-  
ity all of 14 yrs, carrying the  
work on to the summit of its public  
reputation, & widest measure of  
confidence on the part of the student  
constituency, is a marvel of sus-  
tained grace. For the longest  
time he refused to believe anything  
but the best, even where his proce-  
dure was worst & to my knowledge  
he & his wife, & several others among  
those who, <sup>had</sup> suffered most from the un-  
reasonable & unchristian manners  
of one offender, are united in hope  
that the Father of mercies will effect  
a deep change of mind & his substance  
in him before it is too late.

I understand that his physicians  
allow him little over two yrs of life.  
Provided he lives only in the most

guarded way.

I read again recently for the first time in months my letter of a year ago to the Trustees, & find in it nothing to retract regarding either Mr. or Mrs. Dickenson, or the remedy proposed. - What I have learned from second hand sources since commencement shows that my indictment might have been made far worse; & yet if the Trustees are willing to sift my statements by taking adequate evidence I shall very gladly retract any harsh word proved wrong. If on the contrary they refuse to take that testimony seriously, & make no effort to do justice to Mr. Dickenson I shall think the whole Board has been 'hypocritized' by Mr. The whole Bd owes Mr. Dickenson a full hearing of his own unhindered testimony regarding affairs here - beyond what is given in his formal reports; & owes him its own public acknowledgment of his exceptionally fruitful ministry in this place, & the best opportunity to serve again with a free hand. Here are two points to consider: Had his hand been free, & subject only to the ruling of the entire Bd, he would certainly have made the school much stronger than he left it. It is to as perpetually kind-

x & not helped, & the wonder is that he accomplished so much as he did. The trustees would have realized his value, as they have done, & we have given him their enthusiastic cooperation. Their relation to him was abnormal; & the same is true of their relation to Miss Hall.

~~She~~ She also lived, after the death of Dr. Lill, under a constant strain, in the total want of any mutual understanding between herself, & W.R.

who never at any time appreciated her value, or his great obligation to her effective & self-sacrificing work.

She was a dear woman, as Dr. Lill's wife, and all the <sup>earlier</sup> trustees & teachers & old students knew, she was

exceptionally well suited to this place, & even tho' her judgment was not infallible, she was entitled to the most complete access & conference with the whole Bd in all matters of ~~interest~~ common interest or debate. But ~~it~~ even

Miss Hall was made to feel herself so unwelcome to W.R. that she also offered to resign; & if her offer was

not accepted, this was not because she was wanted here by him. He tolerated her, but was never a true



friend. With his brother Paul his dis-  
pleasure was much more openly &  
undisguisedly expressed. Both Paul  
& his wife were handled shamefully.  
I knew the brothers when they were young  
boys, & seldom saw them together when  
the elder was not domineering, &  
his language more or less contemptuous.  
But the leaving of Montford has been the  
making of Paul; & the time has come  
that his father's dying wish should be  
fulfilled in making him the recognized  
chief among the guardians of these in-  
terests. It is resignation from the Bd  
was forced by the explicit request,  
that he sever all official connection  
with this work — because the  
elder brother

"Bone like the Turk no rival near his throat"  
— said Pope of Addison to witfully.

But these three instances — Paul, Miss  
Hall & Mr. S. are only the more con-  
spicuous among many instances of  
down right cruelty — & of all that  
I say good witnesses are still living.

(2) My second point is that Mr. S. had  
he not stayed here because he so  
loved the book & traditions of these  
two schools, was abundantly able

To further his professional interests elsewhere, & had he not turned aside from good opportunities. During all his 35 years of service here, he might easily have found positions <sup>elsewhere</sup> of greater remuneration & reputation than he had here. And now being also possessed of some independent means, he would sooner serve these ~~his~~ North's interests with no remuneration at all, than see the work suffer if overtaxed with financial straits. I know the man - these 35 years past. I know the ~~effort~~ <sup>ability</sup> & actual fruitage of the man, & recommend his further service to the reconsideration of the Trustees before it gets wholly out of reach.

How is it possible that in this matter the Trustees have been so grossly deceived? and that such men in such a place as this <sup>permitted this</sup> man to pass out of sight with no vindication, & no acknowledgment of their official obligations. Not the least among these obligations is that occasioned by his self-sacrificing silence. For

if at any time, he had been, or should  
be, forced in self defence to tell  
all the Trustees & all the Student  
Counsellors his own reasons for  
leaving Nouthfd, the result to W.R.  
would ~~have~~ have been, or may yet  
be ten times more painful than  
any affliction he has yet endured.

I hope you will make my position  
perfectly clear to Mr Buckley, and  
every <sup>one</sup> responsible for Nouthfd. I  
am 15 years of age, & this may be  
my last, as it has been the most  
hateful service I have rendered in  
this place, but it has been a ne-  
cessary service that no one else  
was free to render, & I have  
done this at a great cost to myself.  
I hope it may yet prove my best,  
& most fruitful of good. It being acted  
solely in the fear of God, not in the fear  
of man, & solely out of love to the  
welfare of this work & all connected  
with it, I am ready for any course  
pleases to myself. I readily forgive  
Mr Buckley's mistake, who never knew  
me, & did love W.R. It was worse for W.R.  
than for me. But the time of justice always  
hear - justice to all concerned. Faithfully  
Yours Wm Rankin



H. E. Rankin

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Mar 29, 1926

Dear Dr Speer - I shd have added in  
my last letter that it called for a re-  
ply only for <sup>your</sup> patient consideration &  
consultation with other trustees or re-  
sponsible parties. Some new action for  
the schools must in any case be taken  
soon & to leave Mr D's claims & status  
as a closed incident, can only perpetuate  
& intensify a flagrant injustice. I need not  
say that he has done & said nothing at anytime  
to move my action & effort. I am alone re-  
sponsible. I speak for him only as I would for you  
or any to p. himself, if you were in his place  
Send me Dr. Sawyers' address on a card. Nothing  
more. Truly, H. W. Rankin. March 29. 1926  
E. North Rd

EAST NORTHEAST  
MAR 29  
9 AM  
926  
MASS

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

ENGLEWOOD  
MAR 30  
2 PM  
N.J.

1926

Dr Robt E. Spear

Englewood. N.J.

52 Broadway Park South  
N.Y.C.



6. in other of adv. Applied  
Wm Rankin

APR 30 1926  
SECRETARIES

My dear Dr. Speer

Thank you for I worried  
for your own attention to my letters  
on affairs here. Since last I saw  
you I have written of these matters  
to no 1 else but yourself, & had  
communicated with only four or  
five old students of both schools,  
I have done nothing for Mr. Dick  
son that I would not have done for you,  
or for Mr. Buckley or for Willie bloody  
himself had I been convinced that  
a great personal injustice had  
been done to either one of you, & su-  
ing in great injury to this work.

I cannot be a man's friend for more  
than 30 yrs, & well acquainted with  
his integrity, values & large ser-  
vice, & not do my best to defend  
him in such an exigency as this.  
I have done so at several cost to  
myself, which I plainly foresaw  
if my confidence were betrayed.  
But there seemed to be no one else  
to do it, & it needed to be done.

If the Trustees really think they have  
hounded Mr Dickerson as any one  
of them wd wish to be hounded, I  
am sorry for them; the worst  
thing about it is, that he has been  
condemned without a hearing. He  
has not been officially confronted  
with the charges held against him,  
& requested to answer for himself.  
Had no strong objections to his ad-  
ministration been ~~urged~~ entertained  
his resignation wd not have gone  
without protest. strenuous efforts  
were made to retain some other  
members of his Faculty whose inten-  
tion to leave was known. When he  
met with the Bd in New York in Jan-  
uary, a year ago, to give them acct  
of School conditions, he could not  
say the things most needing to be  
said without openly humiliating  
the President of the Bd, & to this  
day the Bd secures its immunity  
from painful criticism thro the  
self-sacrificing reticence of this  
man. I do not pretend that Mr  
D. was perfect. I made no mistakes,

or might not conceivably have done  
something better. He could not, of course,  
duplicate his predecessor, that was  
personal contact than she had with  
the teachers. But good reasons for this  
can be given, that we do not in the least  
discredit his methods. The Faculty  
was much larger, both in faculty &  
student attendance, than it had been  
in Mr Hall's time, & executive work  
that was done with all was larger  
& more exhausting than ever. He  
depended more, as was inevitable,  
on the department heads for the ap-  
praisal & direction of their assistants,  
but each year he was getting into  
closer touch with all members of the  
Faculty, & with all upper class stu-  
dents, & his hold upon all was  
growing stronger & better. In the de-  
partmental organization of the work,  
required by its extent, his execu-  
tive ability was even more pronounced  
than that of Mr Hall; & in other  
directions; & ~~while~~ his personal hold  
on the interest of the students, their  
admiration & grateful affection, was  
never at all surpassed by Mr Hall,  
& he left the school more widely en-  
hanced than ever before in the hearts  
of the alumnae, & at the summit  
of its public reputation.



This we do not have been possible if he had not, in a conspicuous degree, satisfied all the higher demands of his position. He wd have left the work in still better condition than it was last June, if he had always <sup>been given</sup> a free hand subject only to the ruling of the entire Board in open conference. Very little fault was ever found with him outside the family of Will Moody, after his first year in charge; & even that fault found by others was ~~in~~ <sup>sign</sup> afterwards in significant instances withdrawn, & in other instances ~~was~~ due to overrulings for which he was not responsible. I shall not disturb your mind by further discussion of Mr Dickerson's claims to a justice that has not been shown him yet.

I would to his successors.

But the present method of administration brought injustice, no less to his predecessor ~~if~~ if Will could not get on comfortably with ~~Witte~~ such a man as Dickerson & such a woman as Miss Hall, much less would he have enjoyed association with the two earlier Principals. Yet under the direction of these four heads the school has steadily gained, in prosperity, product, reputation, & internal organization, with no thanks to anything

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done in the school or for the school by its financial agent, beyond successful advertising of the intrinsic merits, which the Faculty & its Principal have produced.

The main objects of my efforts has been to bring about a change in the method of administration which would be likely to prevent a recurrence of this trouble, & wd conduce to the best mutual understanding & cooperation of the Trustees & School heads henceforth; not the Principals only, but the whole Faculty. To this main objective for the future, justice to the last Principal is only incidental. But as your personal attitude to him is wholly cordial, I wish you wd go to see him, & make him realize this fact. It wd bring him considerable consolation.

I hope the old students of both schools will become united in a demand that hereafter all Principals shall be directly responsible only to the whole Board of Managers in session & be treated as colleagues of the Trustees, not as private employees of any one man who ever he may be.

It matters little what the consequences of my action may be to myself; I can better afford unpleasant results than any one else concerned. My journey nears the end. I have acted solely upon conscience in the fear of God, not in the fear of man, out of great love for this work; I could not have done otherwise without being less a friend than to W. R. Moody himself, - less a friend, & very much a coward.

We shall all soon stand before the throne of the Christ to answer for what we have said & done; & while I have very much to be forgiven I know nothing against myself in the action here concerned. The fulfilment of Bible predictions going on before our eyes today is so exceedingly marked in so many ways, that the veriest worldling should see something of it.

- (1) The rapid spread of the Gospel in the world
- (2) The rapid spread of apostasy in the Church.
- (3) The vast increase of lawlessness.



in the state

- (4) The swift advance of science in what Francis Bacon calls "this autumn of the world", referring to Dan 2:4. in Galeries Terminées
- (5) The rehabilitation of Paestria under the Jews (Is 11:11)
- (6) The resuscitation of the Roman empire, indicated by Daniel & the Apocalypse (Mussolini)
- (7) The preliminaries of the Antichrist

That we are in the last century before the Epiphany I cannot doubt. I would suppose that the period of one generation would be long enough to ~~offer~~ bring the completion of all these several developments. Then the man who went a long journey to receive a kingdom returned, well-arrived, & straightened out this crooked world in about six days. To day the earth is almost levelled, & a business man of numerous interests in Europe <sup>recently</sup> came back to tell us that all the countries of Europe were calling for a Mussolini. Perhaps he was wrong, but if Constitutional Government should fail

in America & Great Britain it will certainly fail everywhere else; & at the last federal election here only fifty percent of qualified voters turned out & how ill qualified were most of those! The last resort is always a dictatorship, & always such in time of war, & so there we are. Also all the 22 & 110th P.S.'s are being fulfilled, & many another.

"Let the heavens rejoice & let the earth be glad - - For he cometh, he cometh to judge the earth & the people with his birth" (Ps 96: 11-13). There follows Psal. 72, & all the glad some days of <sup>the truly messianic days</sup> in which <sup>shall be fulfilled</sup> all the best dreams & hopes of bards & prophets since the world began. ~~shall be fulfilled~~

The successor to Oliver Wendell Holmes as in the Harvard Chair of Anatomy was Thos Dwight, a pupil of L. Huxley & unsurpassed among us as a Comparative anatomist - & a Roman Catholic. In his Thoughts of a Catholic Anatomist (95) he says: "This life & this world are but episodes in a tremendous & supernatural drama". Compare this with p 173 in Dr L. Patton's bk for which so many have been waiting to cry.

Holmes was my teacher in anatomy & was in physicalogy -

For more see p 101

"The Bible presents to us a panorama of the divine purpose. As we look we see the unfolding of the great drama of redemption. As we listen to its majestic music from the Creation overture in Genesis to the Hallelujah Chorus in the Apocalypse we realize that we have been holding in our hands the inspired libretto of God's great oratorio of redemption".

Grateful we may well be that Patton has at last put out our book. - too all too brief, to cover its vast subject, or his own unexpressed resources. I hope you will review this bk where I can see what you write. Now, what there a polemic the dogma of so irenic a spirit, or so magnanimous to all opponents. Combining such clarity & exactitude in his own views of doctrine with such comprehensive appreciation of all approaches to ~~sci~~ sci ty anywhere found.



A model of style too, & piece of great literature in this series of five lectures on Fundamental Etymology, by a man who refuses to call himself a fundamentalist. I doubt if Dr. L. would himself have consented to do it, for he hated tags, & could never have approved all the definitions put out by men of that group; tho' completely in sympathy with their insistence on a strictly supernatural revelation, & its Scriptural form.

No man could preach the 2<sup>d</sup> Advent with more power than J. L. or in a more winning & less offensive way. And no year passed that he did not preach it, here & elsewhere, yet always in proportion to the other great factors of truth, & never did he overemphasize this teaching. I suppose he never knew that Euclid among the moderns & Plato among the ancients, & Bacon the inaugurator of science, & Butler of the great Analogy, all looked forward to a supernatural re-creation of the earth & mankind. Faith is stated as follows in Oris

Review (66-7) "Men will become clearer  
& more acute, but not better, happier  
stronger in action, or at least only  
at epochs. I possess the time when  
God will have no more joy in them,  
but will break up every thing for a re-  
newed Creation".

It is probable that Goethe had read  
some great passages in 2<sup>d</sup> Vol of  
Plato's Laws; of which Charles Lewis  
pub'd an edn in 1845 that makes  
a unique introduction to the whole  
of Greek Philosophy, & shows as few  
others have succeeded in doing its  
factors of correlation with the Bible.  
I guess no American School or ever  
united Greek & Hebrew culture more  
thoroughly than Lewis. ~~or showed~~  
so well their united bearing on phi-  
losophy & modern thought. If you  
never saw this edn of the Laws don't  
fail to find a copy for 50<sup>cts</sup> or 75<sup>cts</sup> with  
some dealer in old stock. ~~It is of~~  
~~priceless~~ Its intrinsic worth is price-  
less, & such as you wd greatly enjoy.  
Here is one sentence in Lewis' ver-  
sion, Plato Contra Atheos. p. 216.  
where after describing the deterioration  
of mankind Plato says: "God beholding

it in great extremity, & being concerned lest  
being overwhelmed in disorder & falling  
dissolved, it (the world) should plunge again  
into the limitless, formless region of dis-  
similitude & chaos, once more seats  
himself at the helm (from wh he had before  
returned to his secret place of observation)  
& having arrested its weak & dissolved  
parts in their course to ruin, arranges  
it again in order, rectifies it, & thus  
renders it immortal".

I have no intention of remaining perma-  
nently in Northfd, nor longer than is neces-  
sary to complete arrangements for going  
else where; tho I love this place & hate to  
go away. If possible I wd like to go  
to Princeton, or some place a little out  
of town on the South, with access to the  
mln & books I need to consult, in  
hope of ending some long belated  
writing. So far as I can judge, this  
is the only thing left that I can do, by  
way of adding some testimony to the  
power of Scriptural Xty & its rational  
consistency with all self-evident truth,  
& all morally attested facts. I have  
long desired to complete a testimony for  
Northfd, for China & for Princeton,  
but whether it will ever get done God  
only knows. Sincerely yr friend  
Henry Wm Rankin



Henry G. Thompson

100 North 1st  
April 9

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MAY 20 1928  
SECRETARIES

Dear Mr. Spencer:

The Schwan's have lost their  
credit. He it was who recom-  
mended Mr. Dickerson for the same  
way, after observing his financial  
work at Mt Vernon, & knowing  
his long association with D.L.  
In fact, D.L. had agreed to use  
Dickerson on the head part of the  
man before Mr. Culler was ap-  
proached, & he I suppose thought  
on grounds most honorable to  
his character, of which I was  
aware. At that time I was  
residing at Mt Vernon.  
After that I could see bloody  
after this in favor of Mr. Culler.  
It is learning that he had be-  
come engaged to Mary Miss  
Ford, one of the finest women

who can laugh at either school,  
she taught at both. At the same time  
she not only taught Greek, but was  
in charge of Text Books. Her good  
her executive capacity, these, not  
less than her teaching powers, &  
extraordinary tact in personal deal-  
ing with the pupils at both schools.

Mr. Cutler had for one year been an  
indeed teacher at Mt W. & left to  
New York in Europe. On return-  
ing he was made head of the  
Classical Department with some  
assistants in a large school  
near Philadelphia, & was there  
one year. His wife had taught  
Greek four years at Mt W. & her  
husband, & was W. R.'s teacher.  
She was graduated at Wesleyan  
as youngest member of her class,  
but ~~did~~ <sup>well</sup> teach ~~any~~ <sup>well</sup> subject her  
own Curriculum covered, besides  
bearing herself with such approach  
able dignity, & gracious generosity  
among the boys that ~~the~~ her influ-  
ence with them, as later with the  
girls, was the best possible.

(I attended their  
wedding.)

Mr Cutler was retiring, full on of speech,  
very modest, & slow to believe that he  
could handle the school at Wrentham;  
but I believe rightly, that he would  
do just so slow he would do the work  
without, & at their wedding was  
intended for the subsequent year,  
he told them to hurry up, get mar-  
ried, & be on hand to open  
school at Wrentham in the fall.  
Miss Ford had been out of in Europe,  
& then, Mrs. W's suggestion to D.L.,  
returned for one year at the Sem.,  
& at that time I was on a committee  
with D.L. for selection of teachers,  
& had known Miss Ford as one  
of my best friends ~~all of her~~ since  
their first coming to Wrentham.  
I have no doubt it was largely  
through her course & influence  
that Mr Cutler learned to fit  
into his executive position, far  
better than he otherwise would have been  
possible. He has maintained a limited  
faculty, & in most respects proved  
a good head for the school, but  
never had the initiative, independence,  
range of equipment, or personal  
hold on the students, Mr. Fisher-  
son has shown in both schools.



Mr Dickerson came to succeed Mr  
Ford in teaching Greek at Weymouth,  
& has proved an ideal wife for  
Dickerson, doubling his value at  
both schools. But at Mr Hall's  
death Mr D. at first proposed to make  
Ethel Moody ~~Spring~~ her successor  
at the Senior. (Aubert's sister) &  
so have the family more fully rep-  
resented in control, with Wm  
in complete control of Ethel. He  
wanted nobody in charge possessed  
of an independent mind, as Paul warn-  
ed Mr D. in 1911. Happily for all  
concerned Mr Chassett's advice pre-  
vailed & Mr D. was installed.

Mr Chassett was one of the four Mas-  
ters addressed in my statement of a  
year ago, & his reply was the longest,  
most full, & in every way the most  
valuable I read. I think the whole  
situation was more intelligible  
to him than to the others. He did  
not appear the least surprised  
at my account of W.R. but wrote  
as if he knew all that. But what  
could be done? Conditions seemed inevi-  
table & the Trustees must make the  
best of it. That the local control  
of both Schools & Principals must

in any case be vested in the hands of one person, succeeding to the authority of the founder he seems to take for granted. But he has by no means a confidence in me. I believe his advice & interest in the school wd still be available. In my own opinion there is no man living who could so suitably or affectively take Mr Crossett's own place among the Trustees ~~as~~ Mr Dickerson, ~~but~~ for the misunderstandings that have arisen; but that any one trustee sh<sup>d</sup> inherit the authority of the founder - I regard as a mistaken, gratuitous & hurtful assumption.

Now however that Mr Crossett is gone, this place must be filled by some one. I hope you will consider the availability of John de' Dowell. If two vacancies be filled with Mr & Mrs Turner - Paul & Mrs Pitt - tho' that may not be advisable - so long as Mr K. is President of the Trustees.

I see no ground of objection to  
Mr. Dowell on the part of us, R,  
except the obvious fact that Mr.  
Dowell is intimately acquainted  
with the whole history of this  
work, & has a mind of his own  
decidedly. It is rumored  
here that Mr. Dowell was ap-  
proached in October for Dick-  
erson's place. He certainly has  
the ability & spirit required; but  
he is a national figure, & not  
in a work for which his whole  
past has prepared him; & I do  
not suppose he wd for a moment  
consider such a proposition real.  
Moreover, even if he wanted to  
come here for that purpose, he  
is the last man under heaven  
to accept the dictation of our local  
authorities, & wd need consent  
to act here on those terms.

Indeed, I believe that no man living  
really fitted for this post wd con-  
sent to come here, if fully ~~really~~  
knowing what the conditions of  
administration are in these two places.



Miss Hall had a kind of heaven,  
as well as hell. From beginning  
to end the relations of both Princi-  
pals to W. H. were tense, abnormal  
& unhappy. Both of them were far  
better acquainted with Educational  
problems than their supervisors, yet  
were made subject to his deci-  
sions with no freedom of appeal.  
He is the Contradictor; opposite of  
an educator, & his excellent abilities  
are in other matters.

Had not only so, but I am fully  
convinced that the religious inter-  
est & religious influence of both  
Miss Hall & Mr. McKerron were  
closer to those of the Founders, &  
far deeper & stronger in the life  
of the School than those of the  
Founders son; & of this I have  
had a ample opportunity for obser-  
vation.

If Paul Moody should not prove  
available as President of the Bd. when  
the time comes for a change here - the  
I do not doubt he could then be had -  
then again I believe the best man  
for that position would be McDowell.  
You know his public values, &  
I know his peculiar fitness

-to hold office here. Of all former  
graduates, in this place, I believe  
he has preeminent qualifications  
for presiding over the Northfd Board.  
Like all best candidates for such  
an office his time has already been  
passed, & in this category I place you  
also. Yet his adaptation to the  
post appears to me more compre-  
hensive & complete than that of any  
one else. Even Paul Moody would  
not make a better President of the Bd  
than John - even if so good. But  
I think Paul's claims come first.

In any case it should not re-  
quire long delay to make John a  
Trustee, & you who know him  
now so well, are the men to  
bring that about. Paul Fitt, full  
& well shd all be brought into  
the Bd at the earliest date suitable.

But not one of these, nor even you,  
who know more of education than  
all the rest of them put together, &  
share largely in the spirit of the  
Founder - not one of you wd  
I wish to see exercising the autocratic  
function which has been hitherto ex-  
emplified in one man. That  
brings injustice, & no medicine can  
heal an unrighted wrong, but getting  
it righted - Sincerely yours

Henry W. Parkin

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APR 27 1926

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SECRETARIES

April 21, 1926.

Mr. Henry W. Rankin,  
W. Northfield, Mass.

My dear Mr. Rankin:

I am sorry I overlooked sending you Dr. J. Walter Lowrie's address, it is Room 519, Missions Bldg., 23 Yuen Ming Yuen Road, Shanghai, China.

I am very much interested to hear that the New England students' conference is coming back to Northfield this year, after having been so many years at Silver Bay.

I have read with care all your letters regarding Northfield Seminary and Mr. Dickerson but it is perfectly clear to me from what I know of the mind of the Board of Trustees that that is a closed incident and that your agitation of it will not be helpful, either to Mr. Dickerson or to the Seminary. Personally, I have nothing but feelings of warmest regard and goodwill toward Dr. and Mrs. Dickerson whom I have known and esteemed for many, many years, but I know that the Trustees as a Board believed that they were fulfilling their trust and believe that they have done so. Whatever new measures they may take in the future they will not go back and attempt to reverse the decisions which they made. As I wrote you long ago, it seems to me the only wise thing is for us all to accept this and to go forward, healing old wounds and not keeping them open and seeking to carry forward in love and faith the great trust which has come down from Mr. Moody. With warm regard,

RES/JBG

Very cordially yours,



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 JUN 18 1926

SECRETARIES

E. A. [unclear] Mess

May 5<sup>th</sup> 1926

dear Mr. Speer,

Thank you for your very kind letter. I am glad to know of your own course in this matter, & like what you have done so far. I do not suppose, however, that this means you will not supply your son with the benefit of your advice, & the facts at your command. Whatever the titular office may be, held by your son, the actual scope & method of his service will depend on himself as authorized by the entire Board of Management. All hands are looking for an excellent to unify divided Councils, & if the Northfield School need that kind of a overseer I ~~am~~ am quite ready to believe that your son will prove far better than most others within reach. Much will depend on the way in which he uses the authority vested in him. But on the general

Principle involved, regarding the  
relation of the School Principals  
to the Bd. I see no reason to change  
my opinion. ~~You~~ You may do  
without Principals, employ only  
a Dea. acting under orders, but  
no <sup>one</sup> shd be employed as Principal  
in the case recognized among  
the best <sup>private</sup> schools of this grade,  
& then <sup>be</sup> treated as the private em-  
ployee of ~~me~~ any one person,  
however good & wise that person  
may be. No Principal in any  
great school can do his own best  
work on these terms, if really com-  
petent to fill the place. He or she  
needs a free hand for all inter-  
nal policies, subject only to the su-  
pervision of the whole Bd. in session.  
A weak or subservient Principal  
may require to be kept down un-  
til a fit person is found to suc-  
ceed. Temporarily, & ad interim,  
any trustee may well be deputed  
to dictate all measures, until  
a suitable incumbent for the office  
of head master is found. But

otherwise the relation is humiliating  
& almost sure to breed misunder-  
standings. Why shd a man like  
Cutler or Dickerson, or a woman  
like Miss Hall, not be as much  
a colleague of the Trustees - even  
if not themselves members of the Bd,  
as H. Stearns or Principal Bancroft  
or Dr Taylor, who was my honored  
Chief? It may be that you &  
I or will himself act as Princi-  
pal of both Schools, & at the same  
time as their main financial agent.  
It does not seem to me as if he'd  
ever in that way do his own best  
work.

The executive work alone of either  
Wright or School takes one persons  
whole time, & shd be in the hands  
of a strong personality - strong  
every way, able to unify & inspire  
& direct the whole internal work.  
Just such a person was found in  
Miss Hall, & <sup>in</sup> Mr Dickerson, tho'  
such are hard to find - partial  
found another plan might serve.  
The work done by Mr Dickerson  
alone was this year divided be-  
tween two - Wendell & Miss Landis.



Both have had much sickness, &  
neither one could have carried on  
the work alone. Neither one alone,  
nor both together, have proved the equal  
in efficiency ~~of~~ & influence of either  
deaf ~~to~~ or ~~deaf~~ Dickerson. I am  
sure that the Trustees were seriously  
misled, & deceived by testimony that  
we had heard no sifting at all, regard-  
ing the values here of the last Princi-  
pal. It is well to have the Principal  
free from the cares of a financial agent.  
Such an agent, however successful, ~~is~~  
succeeds by advertising the goods. The  
goods are the intrinsic merits of the  
work done in the school itself by  
its faculty under the lead of a competent  
head. The financial agent, as such,  
does not produce the goods, & all  
that makes either possible or worth,  
while the large sums raised to keep  
these schools going is the confidence  
of old students & public in the intrinsic  
merits of work done by the faculty & Prin-  
cipal. A good financial agent is far  
easier to find than a good Principal. I  
hope your son may read the letters &  
you have had from me in this business.  
I am very certain that no candidate for  
the office of headmaster here, really fit,  
& knowing in advance what relation to  
W. H. M. was involved, would ever consent to  
deceive the offer. This paper ago I ~~was~~ stood  
in the way of W. H. M. & I shall not hinder his  
successor. Cordially, Wm. Henry Burleigh

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JUN 12 1926

SECRETARIES

June 11, 1926

Mr. Henry W. Rankin,  
E. Northfield, Mass.

My dear Mr. Rankin:

I am very much obliged for your letter with the accompanying newspaper clipping.

I understand that Dr. Cutler has been elected a full member of the Northfield Trustees and that the expectation is that the same course will be followed with the principal of the Seminary.

I was not able to attend the meeting of the Trustees at Northfield, last Saturday, partly because of our conference with our newly appointed missionaries and partly because I had to be in Princeton, at the University Chapel service, Sunday morning. I hope to get up to Northfield before the end of the month, however, in connection with the Students' Conference and also the Evangelistic conference to be held, I believe, the same week.

I trust you are very well and that you may have a very good summer.

With kind regard.

Very cordially yours,

RES/JBG

H. E. ... E. North ...

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JUL 10 1926  
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SECRETARIES

Mr. Robt E. Speer, Englewood

My dear Mr. Speer: Thank you for yr  
 letter of June 11. As, contrary to expecta-  
 -tion, I am staying in here thro the summer  
 - or probably into fall, I may have the  
 pleasure of seeing you on your next  
 visit. But I attend almost no public  
 -rites of any kind, or shall not be likely  
 to see you unless you trust me to  
~~give me an~~ appoint me an hour.  
 Conditions here of course have greatly  
 changed within the past year, but the  
 principles are unchanged, & I can see  
 nothing out as I expected. An overriding  
 -fact, the Providential Heaven of Christ  
 thought, is certainly concerned & active  
 in the issue. I too will a year  
 ago say that God wd settle the contro-  
 -versy between us in his own way, & I  
 was most glad to have him do it.  
 In the 45 yrs of my connection  
 with this work - notwithstanding several  
 long absences - I have never had a quarrel  
 with any but one man, & with him for his  
 own good. While all was so I never  
 uttered a word that might hurt his  
 authority, or lessen what respect was  
 entertained for him here, but was at  
 -ways defending & excusing him to others



I have acted consistently & sincerely as  
his friend in many ways unknown to him,  
& never had the least ill will toward  
him. Yet during all the 25 yrs of his  
official life I have known his total  
unfitness to handle educational prob-  
lems, or bear rule over his peers; & of  
late years, this ~~fact~~ unfitness has grown  
exceedingly marked & unmistakable to  
many. He has had his innings, & it  
seems extremely improbable that he will  
ever be able to resume work in other  
- than an advisory relation - even if  
well enough for that. In all matters  
pertaining to this enterprise of schools  
& Summer Conferences, his views & testi-  
mony should, of course, be known &  
heard. But neither his personal judg-  
ment, nor that of any other member of  
- the official staff & managing Board, shd  
be treated as final & beyond appeal.  
The whole Bd shd act <sup>together</sup> in all matters  
of debate regarding the internal poli-  
cy of the schools - the ordering of the Summer  
work, & the course taken by the Principals  
in the schools - the function of the Principals  
is primary, & secondary to no other,  
Raising money & all the other activities  
are incidental to the work carried on  
by the Principals whose voice in the  
Government shd have no less consid-  
eration than that of any other person  
whosoever. This seems to me self-

views that I wonder it has not been  
recognized during the whole history of  
the work, even in the time of the Founder.  
He however, notwithstanding proprietary  
rights here that no one else & never share,  
was far more ready to take counsel  
with the Principals, & respect their right  
to judge important matters, than was  
ever one of Will.

To him, my action of a year ago, has  
made me persona non grata. I  
knew this wd follow if that action  
were reported to him as it was. I am  
ready, as I told him, to have my course  
subjected to the ~~secretary~~ severest scru-  
tiny of old students & trustees, since it  
has been taken solely in the interest  
of truth & justice. It was needed, but  
was too late to accomplish all I wish-  
ed. He now holds me in so great  
aversion, if not hatred, that he has  
accused me of falsehood, slander,  
ignorance, arrogance, seeking to  
undermine the good of the Schools &c.  
If he ever mentions me to your  
Sister, I shall suffer accordingly.  
But all this, I am ready to suffer  
if only the real interests of this  
work may benefit. Will has  
done what he could to drive me out  
of Northford, & I certainly do not wish  
to stay here only to embarrass him.

Before he declines I hope the way may  
open for me to live in Princeton,  
where, with access to the new books  
I want to consult, I may yet hope to  
finish some long belated tasks. But  
I am too much crippled in health &  
means to come ego at will. I have  
sunk my property in the school enter-  
prise, & given to the every ounce of strength  
~~I had~~ to further its welfare I had  
to give. Only the impossibility of doing  
more & better. All this has never at  
any time meant anything to Will Moody  
tho' I would gladly show him any  
kindness in my power. Approving his  
conduct & judgment in many things  
wd be no kindness at all, & would only  
injure this work.

I have no misgivings whatever in  
regard to your son's new relation  
to Northfd, unless only he may be re-  
clined to modernize the religious  
teaching. In every other respect I  
wd suppose him exceptionally  
fitted to use a leading hand: ~~for~~  
I cannot imagine his ever wishing  
to play the rôle of Mussolini -  
too much exemplified here in the  
past. If to his present equipment  
he wd add one factor more



I think his value might be greatly enhanced. If he will make an intensive & exhaustive study of J. L. Moody's life & books, until he arrives at a large understanding of the man, of his natural & supernatural quality, product, place in his century, & place in the perspective of Church history; the relation to his theological convictions of his religious power & its effects — by that means I believe ~~be~~ your soul will gain a source of inspiration & direction in both thought & action, beyond any other means excepting the primary means of grace. It will doody himself, or Paul, had ever taken time to master the life & work of their fathers, as neither of them has ever done, I am certain their own character & influence wd have doubled in strength.

To encourage this effort I enclose two letters from Samual Bradford that I wd be glad to have you show Elliott, & if it please him to have copies

made for his own reference, let  
him do so. It may yet fall to  
the lot of your son to prepare  
an adequate biography of D. Lill,  
such as we are far from having  
yet. Will has ~~always~~ meant  
to do this, but has far less  
preparation than your son for  
the task, & far less of his father's  
spirit than he needs. He has,  
however, accumulated material  
of service to the man who under-  
takes the work. I have urged  
the effort upon Paul, whose train-  
ing & personal qualities fit him  
better than Will ever was to do  
this work. He wd like to do it,  
but as yet has not taken the re-  
quisite time. But if Elliott  
shd set his heart on it, he  
wd have the co-operation of the  
family & others. The sooner  
it is begun the better, while  
yet a few remain living who  
knew D. Lill well in some  
aspects of his life & service.  
On the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of

of Lloyds death, Lions Herald  
of Boston, pub'd a memorial num-  
ber for which I supplied ma-  
terial. That was December  
a year ago. Copies are out of  
print, or I wd send one to  
Elliott - tho I think one was  
mailed to you at the time.  
You were perhaps traveling in  
So. America. The date of  
Lions Herald was Dec 17.

I wd like the Bradford letters  
back when you are done with  
them. Bradfords volume is  
certain to have a unique inter-  
est.

I am thankful that Cutler has  
been made Trustee, & that this  
will be done for the next Prin-  
cipal of the Sem'y. It shd have  
~~have~~ been done 25 yrs ago for  
the two Principals then serving,  
& for Mr Dickerson when he  
took charge of the Sem'y. Had it  
been done for Dickerson we  
never wd have lost him, &  
~~all~~ Cutler & Miss H all wd



both have been able to do better work. The past relations of the three Principals to Will Moody have been humiliating in the extreme, ~~no~~ little felt as such by Mr Cutler, for reasons I have already given. Will has given all praise to Cutler - who never once ~~once~~ opposed the judgment of W. C. & never has had to endure the large interference & personal disfavor of which Miss Hall & Mr Dickerson ~~have~~ were the victims. But know<sup>ing</sup> well by long & close acquaintance all the heads of both schools from the beginning I say without the smallest doubt that Cutler, good as he is, never possessed the influence or values of both Miss Hall & Mr Dickerson in these schools. At Hermon as well as at the Sem, Dickerson's personal influence with the students was much stronger & better than Cutler's, who ~~has~~ never won among the students the rare measure of confidence, admiration, affection, & sense of personal obligation, ~~be~~ ~~coupled~~ given to Mr Dickerson at both schools & to Miss Hall.

Cordially yours. Henry W. Rankin

Paul D. Moody

to

Ch. E. Dickerson

July 10. 1911

---

"You must know that whether or not it is the case, it is said by every one that it is because you will be absolutely pliable that you have been chosen. You will soon find that you must be if you are to remain ~~there~~ there"

---

W. W. R. June 15. 1926

Under these conditions that obtained here the entire administration of Mr. Dickerson, who had a mind of his, & the kind of mind needed in his position. The wonder is that thro' all of 14 years he kept his place & kept his temper, & despite hurtful occurrences from time to time, maintained for the most part his own policy, & finally left the school deeply entrenched in the hearts of nearly all the students, with the Seny. at the summit of its public reputation.

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July 8, 1926

Mr. Henry W. Rankin,  
East Northfield, Mass.

My dear Mr. Rankin,

I was at Northfield for two meetings of the Student Conference week before last, and passed through Northfield again at the end of last week with no time for looking anyone up except my son. He seems to be happy in his work, and nothing could be more beautiful than the welcome he had received from the Pitts and Ambert and Paul and all the other friends. I have received also a beautiful letter from Mr. Dickerson, with whom no doubt Elliott will get into touch at the first opportunity.

I return herewith the letters from Gamaliel Bradford which you were good enough to let me see. I shall look forward eagerly to his articles on Mr. Moody.

Mrs. Speer and I expect to leave in about three weeks for China, and Japan, to be gone until next Christmas. I trust that you may have a good summer and fall, and with kind regards always,

Very sincerely yours,

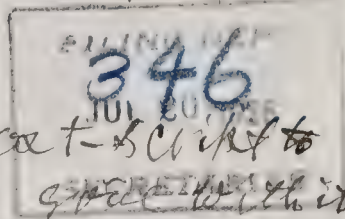
RES:C.



E. W. Northy<sup>1</sup> & July 12 - 1926

10

My dear Mr. Spear;



The following is a part of a letter to my last, I should have given it to you or really care to consult with Mr. Dickerson, I think he can do it much more easily & advance it gradually before the return of W.R. than later, even if he has to make the journey to Maine where the Dickersons now are in their summer home. He will hardly be encouraged to do it after that return, & is likely to gather by delay some misleading views - as the Board of Trustees obviously did - of what are the real obligations to the school & its officers. For despite protestations to the contrary, it is certain that W.R. did not like Mr. Dickerson, & plotted to get rid of him, using trivial pretexts, charges & suspicions that cannot possibly endure sifting. All the investigations ordered by W.R. were a farce, so far as they bore on conduct for which Dickerson was responsible, & he is perfectly ready today to give satisfactory answers to any questions that the Trustees may officially put to him.

He has not been officially requested to make his own explanations under conditions that wd ensure the freedom of his reply. He wd sooner suffer in silence the personal grievance than openly humiliate Will Moody, or say a word that could be used to hurt the school. But Will himself has good reason to know that if by misrepresentation, or official inquiry, Mr Dickerson should be led or forced to give out his own reasons for resigning that would end all confidence in W.R.'s fitness to exercise the autocratic function he has hitherto maintained. Mr D. would be slow to tell these reasons even to your son, not liking to disillusion your son's present faith in the wisdom & goodness of his predecessor & predecessor, tho' without doing this Mr D. wd tell him much else to his advantage. But no one else in this place, unless some members of his immediate family, or some wholly dependent person, shares your son's present confidence in the guileless wisdom of this man. I am certain that nine tenths of all Dickerson's old pupils in both schools wd accept his broad

count of these matters before any other that  
may be offered. They know the reality,  
integrity, fidelity, efficiency & genuine  
good will of Dickenson, while the man  
who forced his resignation has never  
won the real confidence of the students  
in either school - least of all of the girls,  
who see much more of him than the  
boys. Those students & teachers know-  
ing him least give him the benefit of  
the doubt, & those seeing most of him  
least like his ways. The same is true  
of this whole community, unless in a  
few favored cases.

These statements  
are not palatable, but they are true. If true  
the school guardians ought to know it,  
& I have said these things because there  
was no one else to do it, not because  
no others think the same, nor because  
it has afforded any pleasure to me - quite  
the reverse. Yet I will stand by  
all that I have written at any cost  
to myself.

In regard to making the Principals mem-  
bers of the Board - I am not sure that  
I wd advise it in the case of a new & un-  
tried Principal, before that person has  
been one or two yrs in service. Even  
a new Principal shd meet with the  
Bd enough to have complete access  
with all questions, & shd be respon-  
sible only to the Board, & not to any  
one ~~for~~ member of it. I think Culler &



I wish all shd have been made known  
the year after D.L.'s death, & Dickenson  
so soon as he became Principal. All  
of these had been long tried. As I have  
previously told you, D.L. offered full  
charge of M.T. to Dickenson, before Cutler  
was approached, & D. refused for peculiarly  
honorable reasons characteristic of the  
man. But D's value at both schools  
was doubled by his wife, especially at  
the Sem; while but for Cutler's ~~first~~ wife  
his fitness at the time wd hardly have been  
seriously considered. Miss Ford's standing  
was at the top with both schools, & in D.L.'s  
mind, before Cutler was much more than  
a question mark, & it was not until at the  
last minute <sup>when</sup> D.L. learned that Cutler was  
engaged to her that D.L. passed Cutler's ac-  
ceptance of the office, & then hurried the wed-  
ding a year ahead of the intended date.  
With all these circumstances I was inti-  
mately acquainted at the time. So much  
has the wife to do with these two positions  
that in getting rid of Dickenson the Trus-  
tees have simply thrown away their strong-  
est asset. I am certain there is not one per-  
son connected in any capacity with  
the Sem today who could not be more  
easily <sup>spared</sup> & replaced than Dickenson -  
unless it shd prove to be your son. The place  
of prime importance in a great school is that  
of the Principal. All the rest are incidental to  
the work he does, or she, & any weakening of  
that office, or any real unfitness in its execu-  
tion, is the worst harm the work can suffer.  
Very cordially yet H. W. Rankin

July 11. 1926

E. North's dear

My dear Dr Speer

It was in 1886 that I first had the pleasure of meeting you, when you attended the Student Conf. at W. Thomas. Since then we have exchanged notes from time to time, & I have <sup>often</sup> enjoyed the privilege of listening to your addresses in this place. Your identification with the work of Missions, has always had my sympathetic interest, & the kind of reading you do is the kind I like to do when I can. But my much broken life has produced small results & you unbroken life large fruit, yet we have had the same Master - only One, & done our part in the same spirit, I think. My identification with North's seemed at the outset the merest accident - yet here I became anchored in<sup>g</sup>, & have seen much reason to believe that God brought me here, - to do such work as was still within my health & means. & has blessed me in it beyond all my expectations.

My latest efforts here were of a painful  
nature that seemed necessary to the  
best interests of this place. I judge  
they have not been wholly useless,  
But they were not undertaken with  
any view to my own comfort, & they  
have certainly cut deep into the  
sensibilities of others involved.  
Henceforth I am persona non grata  
to the former President of this North  
enterprise, & he will do nothing  
- to help my relations with the new Pres-  
ident - or Vice President, as I had  
suppose is the present status in  
effect. I have never personally  
met your son, & only once, a year  
ago, have heard him make an ad-  
dress. I am not well enough to  
attend any public mtg after, be-  
sides being now a little deaf & a little  
blind. But if I were to be main-  
long in town I should hope to see  
something of him, & certainly he  
has my best wishes & prayers.  
In the measure of strength & means  
I have put as much of my own  
life into this work as any man  
now living, hence I shall love it  
to the end. But of late years &



little of this has been visible to casual inspection. So many of those who knew me best in the past are scattered & dead, that I have become almost a stranger in this place; tho' nothing is lacking but health & means to prove all that was proved in former years. I am still bold enough to hope in God for another & better chance of service both here & elsewhere. The more things go against me the less I despair. Even yet I more than half believe that I shall not die but live to declare the works of the Lord, & many of the Problems seem perfectly to fit my case. In that event I wd certainly find ways not only to encourage your son, & strengthen his hands, but, even if he lives, to encourage Will Moody himself. I have never been to him other than a true friend, & never cherished toward him other than the kindest will. He has been in my daily prayers since he was 16 yrs old, & always with me. But during all of the 25 yrs since his father was taken from us I have known that Will Moody was not a competent person to handle educational problems

to bear rule over his peers, during  
all that time until a year ago. I held  
my peace, save to defend him as  
well as I could, & find excuses  
when others made complaint.

I doubt if he will ever stay well  
long enough to hold a ruling hand  
over your son; but he will certainly  
attempt to do that, if he can.  
Only a deep change of nature could  
ever change his practice in that re-  
gard. Between him & his father we  
see the difference between Napoleon  
the Great & Napoleon the Little - as described  
by Victor Hugo - but the difference  
between Will & his father is not only  
a ~~difference~~ disparity in power, but a  
disparity in spirit - ~~the~~ most vis-  
ible to those who have seen the daily  
life of the two. I hope a change  
for the better in the man's heart, where  
it is needed most, & for this he  
has the united prayers of several per-  
sons whom his manners have offended  
most. I am glad you have another  
opportunity of visiting China & Japan - Had  
much I'd like to do that too. I hope you  
have not abandoned the thought of preparing  
a memoir of George Bowen. I'd like to see  
again receive my lost health I wd ask you to  
return the Bowen books & papers I once sent you,  
I give me a chance to read his journals & the  
diaries of Bruce Carter. Bon voyage & grace  
be with you. Cordially Y. W. Pauline.

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Dictated 7/14/26

July 16, 1926

Mr. Henry W. Rankin,  
East Northfield, Mass.

My dear Mr. Rankin:

I thank you very much for your letters of July 11th and 12th. I am sorry that you are feeling so increasingly the limitations of health and strength and I do trust that you may yet have a number of years in which you can carry through some of those undertakings in the way of writing which have been so long and so heavily upon your heart.

Mrs. Speer and I are leaving New York on July 29th, sailing from Vancouver on August 5th, and we shall not be back until Christmas time.

I trust that then we may hear that you have had a good fall, and with kind regards always, I am,

Very cordially yours,

RES-KC



Wm Rankin  
Worcester, Mass. 46 Spring St

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Wag. or Spear, I have been privileged to  
spend six months in this place to all the libra-  
ries, tho' not well enough to get much done,  
Now soon again I go to Spauld for a rather  
six months in a delightful town to which  
the merciful kindness of God has made me free.

Bradford's book on India is out, & enclosed you  
will find a shameful review of a sort we  
may expect to be duplicated several times  
in this godless age of jugged theology,  
jugged science, jugged morals & jugged  
music; an age that obliterates all clear def-  
initions & generic distinctions, & syn-  
crites all nature from minerals to morals,  
& reduces religion at best to an attenuated  
theism & ethics. All the colors run, all  
distinctive notes are confused together,  
& no real classification is possible of  
good & bad, of genera & species, of  
right & wrong, of morals & religion;  
since all things run together, Everything  
merges into something else with no lines  
of demarcation. All the old heroes  
are reduced to villains, & all the  
old blackguards are glorified, & in  
an everlasting flux of relativity we  
perform the dervish dance of modern

thought that could with the intellectual vertigo  
of illusion as in the Hindu Maia.  
Bradford's Moody should be read with  
Bradford's Darwin, for these books are  
complemental to each other, & sound  
the same note of waiting for a lost God.  
Darwin is shown as the man who more  
than any other of the last century, under-  
mined religious faith, & Moody who  
did more than any other to build it up;  
while the writers, for whom Darwin made  
~~stable~~ the X<sup>th</sup> faith impossible by shatter-  
ing the entire cosmic background of X<sup>th</sup>,  
as for so many other leading minds,  
wonder whether after all D. F. Moody was  
not right & Darwin wrong. & like the  
paupers of hunger for a God he could  
know how to find. *Lafecisti nos ad  
Ip, et inquietum est cor nostrum, donec  
requiescat in de.* *Salvatio!* Bradford  
whose ~~human~~ <sup>Pilgrim</sup> ancestry goes straight  
back to Plymouth Rock, writes of D. F.  
as a most unwilling agnostic, & presents  
in the main a true & living portrait of the  
great Evangelist. ~~He~~ <sup>He</sup> raises some im-  
portant questions that can all be an-  
swered with assurance regarding the  
personal aims of D. F., & the possibility of  
keeping his doctrine & his faith. In both  
books the writer furnishes apologetic ma-  
terial of the strongest kind, which as  
ought to make a strong impression

on religious & de-religious readers.

But I wish that you or Mott, or some competent man, might stand ready to give the lie to such representations as you find in this enclosed review. It is very different testimony from that recorded by the same paper on several former occasions <sup>while</sup> Dr. G. lived among us: very different from that of the best papers in many cities of this country & of Britain.

I spent a week lately with the Dicheensons in Aldwich, where they devote themselves in fruitful ways to local welfare. But I suffer continually a burning indignation ~~for~~ <sup>at</sup> the official treatment they received in Northford, for which not the smallest amends have NOT been made. I knew nothing until after commencement of that fearful year how Mr Crassett & Mr Perry had reached, in effect, my own conclusions some months before my letter to Four Trustees was sent - but too late to change the policy to which the Bd had become committed. Mr Crassett wrote me that he knew <sup>well</sup> ~~very~~ the things I said of Mr Dicheenson & Mr Perry were true, but thought the Bd wd have to make the best of it, or break. How to make the best of it he wd have undoubtedly decided he shoud, & his death was an immense loss to the work.



But it was only after the 4th day of one of the  
Trustees had taken pains to have Mr Dickson  
an answer for himself his reasons for re-  
signing, & the objections raised against  
his administration - but never speci-  
fied in his presence - that they realized the  
whole situation, & the flagrant injustice done.  
If ever a man was attacked behind his  
back on evidence that wd not bear the usual  
test of sifting, with no opportunity to defend  
himself from specified charges, that man is  
Dickerson, than whom no person was ever  
employed in any capacity by either school  
more able, more faithful, or more fruit-  
ful in service than was this man for all  
of 35 years. I have been the personal friend  
of every Principal of both schools from the  
beginning, & of very many teachers, students,  
& early trustees. Nobody knows better than I  
do what the value of Mr Dickerson to that  
total work has been - very much better  
than will Moody himself ever know it  
- as I did in the case of Miss; for <sup>while</sup> he held him  
self aloof from both of them, always treating  
both as a captious overseer, & never as a  
personal friend; & in the case of Mr Dickerson  
we mistakably jealous of him, just because  
Mr D's influence in the Sem, & hold up on the  
confidence of the students, was so much greater  
than that of the Overlord himself; not only jealous,  
but resentful & spiteful, because Mr D. had  
a mind of his own, as a competent Principal ought  
to have. Therefore he was decoyed to go, & allowed  
to go with no official protest, but with a certificate  
of good character & not the least official recognition  
of his pleaded service, all of 35 years.

All this & worse from the most Christian Corporation in the land, that has found out too late, if even yet, the inexcusable blunder it has made, & the real source of this lamentable upheaval. The thing has come to pass that I predicted, they threw away their best asset for a gamble. For, given a free hand & health, the next ten years would have proved the crowning period of all Mr. Dickenson's life-work. He was never, at any time, free to do his own best, but continually over-ruled to the damage of the work, & then made the scape goat of all blame.

If the Trustees had been willing to learn from his own lips, & the competent witnesses he could easily have called, ~~his~~ his own account of his administration, of his personal relations to W.R. of the conditions for which he was blamed, & the circumstances leading up to his final betrayal — possibly two three would have ~~accepted~~ preferred Will's testimony to his, but none of the rest. Indeed I doubt if it would have been possible for any single Trustee to escape the force of evidence Mr. Dickenson could bring; & all that saves the Board today from



Public condemnation is the self-sacrificing  
reticence of one man. But if instead  
of putting off to the last year of Mr  
Dickens's office, the Trustees had at  
ways, habitually, as a matter of course,  
met ~~then~~ all the Principals as colleagues,  
with open & free exchange of views &  
facts, not only would this upheaval  
never have occurred, but all the Prin-  
cipals wd have done much better work,  
with the intelligent co-operation of all  
the Trustees; ~~but~~ <sup>called</sup> the Principals would have  
been spared grievous humiliations,  
the school's great harm, & Will Moody  
himself would have been placed in  
normal relations to the whole enterprise,  
& suffered far less loss in his personal  
character & influence for good. He has  
suffered so much in these respects as to  
have lost the respect of nearly the whole  
Community in which he lives, & nearly  
the whole school beside his ~~or~~ house.

Because he accuses me of malice & ig-  
norance & falsehood, I want his friends  
& mine to understand that I am ready any  
day to face the severest investigation of  
my words & conduct the Trustees & Old  
Students can devise. But if I should  
tell him to his face all the facts that  
he thinks I know only by hearsay, my recd  
if at all,



specified questions & accusations.  
Laf would put him in his grave in four weeks time. With his present precarious health he could not bear it. For, like Mr Dickerson, I also could tell the Trustees facts & evidence that can not be set aside, which if made public might wreck the North's work. I have no desire to go into these particulars with any but the official guardians of the work; but I hold the Trustees inexcusable for giving Mr Dickerson no official opportunity to answer for himself. Officially he has been belittled & dishonored, & another man, who, with all his merits, has ~~the~~ been the servile henchman of W.R. has been officially honored. Between the two men in weight of character, & of the Christian influence among the students, the man dishonored is far the better man. I know them well, & tho' I should stand alone in this estimate, as certainly I do not, I would stand till <sup>now</sup> cut down.

Only a few days after W.R. had his new program well going, & presided over by another puppet, far inferior in both character & equipment to the man driven out, W.R. addressed two scurrilous notes to me that McDowell can show you if <sup>he</sup> has kept them — boasting to me that I had failed in the attempt to undermine his authority — only a few days, when

Law he came with an incurable disease,  
& his authority was taken from him, by other  
hands than mine.

But why recount these painful facts?  
Because no amends have been made  
for the grave injustice done, & until  
~~it is~~ made more injury will follow  
to the Schools. There is a power not  
ourselves making for righteousness, &  
vindicting justice in most unexpected  
ways. May the Schools live, tho  
I perish, & live to fulfil those purposes,  
& those only, to which they were dedica-  
ted by their Founder.

In however informal a manner I think  
an official inquiry should be made of  
Mr Dickerson in person regarding his rea-  
sons for leaving, & his answer to specified  
objections. That done, some means for  
his vindication can be provided, & some  
honour shown in which his old students  
& friends can be asked to join. He should  
receive an official assurance of regret &  
Confidence; ~~but~~ it is advice on school  
matters should be sought; & at the ear-  
liest possible moment, he should be made  
a Trustee of the Schools. It is unlikely that he  
could ever be persuaded to resume legal charge,  
unless conditions become desperate, & he is  
asked to save the situation.

Cordially yours  
Henry Wm Parkin

W. Rankin 6 Spring St

Wilmington N.C.

June 24 1927

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My dear Dr. Speer,

I have noticed two recent  
articles that may interest you  
considerably, & which you  
may not have seen:

The God of India's Thought  
by A. M. Chirgwin (Christ)  
London Quarterly Review  
April 1927.

This gives large expression  
to what I have had occasion  
to make.

Resurgent China, by

Edwin Deeks Harvey

Research Sociologist of  
the Yale Institute of  
the Far East in China

Yale Review, July 1927.



In Science Mag 20, 1927

Henry F. Osborn's Recent Discoveries relating to the Origin & Antiquity of Man -

This latest pronouncement of Osborn only shows the despicable blight of the anthropologists to do it for the origin of man - Every discovery makes "if more desperate, & a total argument for the natural origin of man, & of all the leading types in life, grows weaker all the time, as one assumption after another of empirical evidence disappears with the progress of discovery.

The biologists are at loose ends ~~and~~ <sup>with</sup> each other, & their mutual contradictions are more pitiful than laughs

in view of the issues at stake.

In the Philosophical Review March 1926. Cassinier de Smith, writes on Progress in Philosophy in the last twenty years (during which time the American Phil. Assn. has existed) Not only does he admit that the advance is very slight, if at all, but in my opinion most of it is progress backwards; because most of it is based on a false conception of world-views, such as inevitable? gives a conception of the world-around either grossly wrong, or at best miserably attenuated.

There now want a God who never displays the first prerogatives of free agency in the origination de novo of any conditions which are not the necessitated product of natural antecedents

This unbroken continuity of the genetic process makes the major premise of most of our scientific theories of life as a whole not with all the methodical implications. All thinking not conforming to Christ is a waste of mind. I would bet a dollar to lose all the philosophical criticisms Christ than the Greek philosophy which anticipates a C that follows, in which all the logical antecedents of X can be found.

The scriptural conception of world order, which is that of Christ himself, is getting already so powerfully corroborated at so many points that everything opposed to it will soon be in the scrap heap. Christ alone makes a sufficient criterion of all truth claimed by his actual teaching. Until we learn the whole content of his recorded teaching & accept it, & use it, ~~we~~ the mind of Christ is just so much less our standard. Don't answer cordially to

— If any h<sup>m</sup> Rand in



H. W. Rankin

I hear you of

it as 10, MAY 19 1927

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5  
PRESERVED for Sp...

Two articles of some  
weight on China appear  
in the May number of  
the Chronicle (No. 10, 1927,  
Prot. Episc. Organ)

The most important is the  
first by Paul C. Cassal  
on the Rise of Nationalism  
in China (2 pages)

The second is a review  
3 columns of the Report

of Asia, by Upton Close (sold  
to Washington & Co)

Our Russian Ambassador has  
said that part of the Soviet  
aim in China is to bank-  
rupt Brit Britain.

The first of these writers stands  
by Gen<sup>l</sup> Feng, & believes  
thus he coöperates with

Chiung Kai Shek of Canton

The Chronicle carries on  
a splendid fight against  
the ~~the~~ accidental moa-  
tion of the Church in England

of this country, as contradicting  
the Constitution & creed of  
the Ch in both lands, but  
does not see that its own  
Modernism is no less a  
contradiction of the same.

The Pharisees & Sadducees  
are still with us, rend-  
ing the Church apart, & it  
will not be strange if  
the strictly canonical el-  
ment - in all Churches may  
yet become a scorned & re-  
jected minority.

Most abnormal of all is  
- the occasional union of  
Sacerdotalism & Modern-  
ism in one person.



I think the whole of Modern  
Thought revolves in an  
ellipse about two foci -  
the original Creation of man  
in the image of God, & the  
Incarnation of God in the  
likeness of man. These two  
events mutually demand  
each other, & between them  
stands the whole scheme of  
Evangelicality. Every either  
or is out & you doing both.

I want both events, & in the end  
it will be seen that all the teach-  
ings of Scripture, ~~not~~ conform  
not only to authentic history, but  
at every point, to principles of self  
evident reason. No sort of theology  
can be made axiomatic. Y<sup>rs</sup> truly,  
Henry D. Rankin

~~W. H. Rowley~~  
Swanton 15

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SECRETARIES

idea of Spear;

Much of the ~~theology~~ <sup>theology</sup> of the  
the Century seems to me to rest  
on a false major premise,  
but the man who writes & di-  
tributes on China for that paper  
was shown as good under-  
standing.

In the April 14 number is  
an article on America's Peril  
in China that I think you  
would strongly approve. Certain-  
ly it is in line with the main  
convictions of Lord Castles,  
whose own views prac-  
tice in the premises bear

such as discuss publication  
in the best available form.  
- that expressed in the  
paper by Col. Shepard.  
Of many missionaries  
still hold similar  
views, but it is  
difficult to secure publi-  
cation of that article  
in the China Recorder, or  
other Shanghai journal<sup>s</sup>.

When it was published first  
in greatly abbreviated  
form by Fr. A. S. Pearson  
you can learn from DeLancey



I have no copy within reach,  
I cannot recall the date.  
It appeared the year that  
Delacour was in Washington  
Protection (?) He had however  
asked me to publish the arti-  
cle in full. That was our  
supreme objection, with  
out which I would not have  
left it in his hands.

Noice it has been set  
at type in a dubia-  
ted form - first in the  
Record of the work, from which  
I discovered it before publi-  
cation when I saw the proof.  
It ought be published in China  
as it stands written.

If I had the means, I could not  
get that done, I could get it done  
in pamphlet at my own  
expense, & distribute several  
of hundred copies in China  
& Washington & elsewhere.

That is out of my power.

You know who is in China  
now, & I do not; but you  
have already told me that  
you thought the paper of no  
use here. This <sup>letter</sup> calls

for no answer - only for  
your further consideration.

But if either in China or (possibly)  
the Bible must necessarily be  
caught on modernist pre-  
mises, the schools & the mission-  
aries, as well as give up the game.  
These premises constitute a univer-  
sal negative & at such a time  
& in a limited. Cordially  
Yours  
H. W. Rankin

FILING DEPT.

MAR 19 1927

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SECRETARIES

March 18, 1927  
(Dictated March 17)

Mr. Henry W. Rankin  
Swanton, Vermont

My dear Mr. Rankin:

I am sorry I cannot tell you whether Col. Sheppard is yet living, but I do not think he is. I think some years ago at your request I made inquiries and we found that he had passed away. I may, however, be wrong in this memory. I am afraid there will be little chance of getting his article and Dr. McCartee's printed in China now.

Very sincerely yours,

RES/SCB



Swanton Vt., March 10. 1927

Thank you for letter recd.  
that secured publication in  
Col Shepards article on  
now on file at the R. d Rooms. Surely such  
an article, tho written long since, would  
not be inopportune in China at this  
time, Is Col Sheppard yet living?

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MAR 11 1927  
SECRETARIES

RECEIVED

MAR 11 1927

Mrs Speer

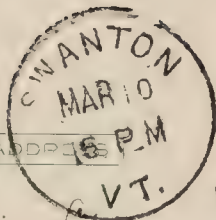
Henry Wm. Rankin

RECEIVED

MAR 12 1927

Mr. Speer

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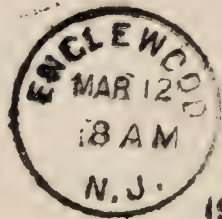
1927

Mr Robert E. Speer

~~Englewood~~  
N.J.

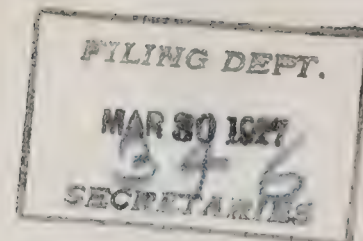
156 5th Ave

N.Y.C.



1927





March 7, 1927

Mr. Henry W. Rankin,  
Swanton, Vt.

Dear Mr. Rankin,

Your letter of February 28th was received on March 5th, just as Mr. Speer was leaving for a two weeks' absence in Chicago, where he is attending some special conferences. He wished me to write and acknowledge its receipt with thanks and to send you the address of the Rev. Ernest P. Janvier, which is c/o Mrs. E. Ewald, 126 S. 39th Street, Philadelphia, Penna.

It so happens that Mr. Speer had dictated a letter to you on February 28th, but owing to bulk of accumulated correspondence it was not typed until today, and I enclose it herewith.

Sincerely yours,

C.





March 7, 1927  
(Dictated February 28)

Dr. Henry W. Rankin,  
Swanton, Vermont

My dear Mr. Rankin:

I am very much obliged for the newspaper clippings which you have sent from time to time. Our five months out of the country meant dropping behind in a great many contacts and it is very good to have the bits of information which your clippings have supplied.

We had a very interesting trip as you can well understand and have written out a very full report for the Board a copy of which I will send you as soon as we get them from the printer.

I was back in Ningpo just for one day but it was good to have even that much renewal with the great memories of that old station.

I saw Dr. Dickerson on Saturday at the Foreign Policy Association luncheon and learned from him that Mrs. Dickerson was there though I did not get a glimpse of her.

With kind regard,

Very faithfully yours,

RES/SCB

R. E. Speer

Death of Edward G.  
Morse, Curator  
of Peabody Mu-  
seum, Salem  
Oct 20, 1925.

I called on him in  
July 1923. (H. W. R.)  
Born Portland ME,  
1838

(over)

Prof Morse succeeded  
Dr McCarter in the  
Chair of Natural History  
in the University of Tokio.  
There was a few months'  
interval in wh the Chair  
was occupied by Dr  
Beeder. But Dr Morse  
became its regular in-  
cumbent for a few years  
doing his best to under-  
mine the strong conviction  
Dr McCarter had in-  
spired of the living  
God in Nature.



Amory W. Benson

RECEIVED  
Boston, VT  
MAR - 1927

EXLNG DEPT.  
Feb 28  
MARCH 1927  
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SECRETARIES

My dear Mr. [unclear]

You see where I am spending a fourth winter, hoping by next June, if not too much disabled to be any where and of a hospital, to be again in Princeton. I was there for 10 weeks from <sup>last</sup> July to Nov 10, greatly enjoying the facilities for study & the new old associations of that place; but my conditions of health are not permitting & the cost of living in Princeton is very great. Some one told me that you had resigned from the Northfield Bd - for which I am very sorry; but suppose you prefer to avoid standing in yr son's way. Yet, of course, he will always have the benefit of yr advice. I am sure he was the right man to put in his present post, tho I have not the pleasure of his personal acquaintance.

then he has been long enough in Northford  
to stand on his own feet, & no longer, as  
an uncertainty to his. I have no doubt  
he will show wisdom, efficiency & a  
right spirit - such as his predecessor  
never had. BUT entering on his new  
duties as he seems to do, with the  
qualified confidence & admiration toward  
Will already, he is likely to be cool,  
at first, well stuffed with the preju-  
dices & misrepresentations of local  
conditions in recent years, that  
Will can hardly fail to express.  
If Will was able to headwind the worst  
of Squash in respect of the last  
Principal, & do him an irreparable  
wrong, besides giving many other false  
impressions, what may he not do with  
his new colleague?

I am myself become an a thorn  
Will, thro' Mr. Buckley's betrayal <sup>of</sup> my  
letter, without so much as reading it  
once there, as he told me, yet the harm  
done to Will by this hasty act was  
far worse than any done to me; tho'  
all my present relations with  
Northford have been grievously & needles-  
sly marred. With the best interests  
of that work my life has been identi-  
fied to the extreme limit of my  
strength & means, all of 45 years,

I threaten nothing has in the least distressed  
ed the exceptional favor formed in. More than a  
cloud. Give me but health, & I would soon  
again find ways of helping the Schools,  
the town & will do so, himself beyond  
anything he has ever supposed possible  
to me. My deep condemnation of his  
methods has not lessened in the least my  
cordial regard for his welfare; the  
in reply to his accusation of grievous  
offenses in me - malice, falsehood,  
slandor, ignorance, arrogance,  
& efforts to subvert authority & defame  
the work, I have told him & stated  
that I am ready to meet the severest  
investigation of my words & conduct  
in school affairs, & the Trustees & old  
students can devise. From such an  
investigation I have nothing to fear &  
will do so much to fear that he will  
never do so to order it.  
I have said nothing to any <sup>body</sup> not more  
than covered by my <sup>first</sup> letters to  
four Trustees, & my statements there  
regarding the two persons mainly con-  
cerned, have been confirmed since  
that was written by so much & va-  
ried first hand evidence of unim-  
peachable weight, that I must stand  
by every word until it is disproved.  
Therefore all of 25 yrs I held my tongue,  
knowing all that time the total



profitless of W.R. to handle educational problems or to bear rule over his peers; & the purpose of all that I have done has been to secure some belated official justice for a shamefully wronged man - than whom the two schools have never had a more able, faithful & efficient helper - & further to prevent the recurrence of such a wrong by such a change in the method of administering the schools, as wd minimize all occasions of friction, & foster adequate cooperation between the official guardsians of the work & those by whom it is directly conducted.

All this you know, & as your son is will be made acquainted with the W.R.'s view of the whole situation, I hope he may not be left to understand that view alone.

If hereafter the school heads are themselves made colleagues of the Trustees, & not merely the hired help of one person on the Bd, their vote will equal that of any other Trustees, & their direct access to the Bd with their own problems ought to be complete.

If ad this method been employed the year after ~~the~~ the Founder's death, Miss H all & dear Dickenson would both have profited from normal relations with the Bd, wd both have proved amenable to all reasonable discuss

sion of School needs & conditions, I  
 wd both alike have been spared grievous  
 humiliations & obstructions. Neither one ever had a free hand to  
 do their own best, & the marvel is that both accomplished so much as  
 they did in the face of continual friction & misunderstanding, with  
 public & mischievous meddling. Mr Fall, Mr Dickerson, & also Mr  
 Cutler, wd all these have done better  
 work, & much more improved condi-  
 tions than they did, had they been at  
 least free to use their own judgment,  
 subject only to the ruling of the whole  
 Bd after unembarrassed statement  
 to the Bd of their own problems & views.

~~But~~ Mr Crossett has died, & you  
 have resigned (?) & who is left but  
 Mr Fry to follow up this proposed  
 change in administration? I hope  
 there are others to enforce it, tho I  
 do not know them.

At the time of writing my first letter  
 to four men of the Bd, I did not  
 know that official action had already  
 gone too far to recall; but I did know  
 all that I wrote of the two men - &  
 sufficient grounds for urging the change  
 of Government. What I knew then  
 I know better still today.

From the time we assumed it, we  
 had no as never at her last to the King, I had  
 little confidence in his judgment. I knew  
 we were

Constitution of 1850  
 Henry White & Austin

~~But~~ I supposed the four Trustees addressed <sup>could</sup> by acting as an informal Committee ~~could~~ secure the needed vote on the general merits of the case, without showing the letter to more persons than ~~was~~ would be required for this end, or dwelling on the personal details; ~~But~~ my sole purpose in relating the painful details to a few Trustees & a few old students was to produce conviction that a change in method of government was indispensable to the justice & the welfare of all concerned.

The old students are the proper constituency of the Schools, & have a right to know what concerns their welfare - as much so as the Alumni of a College. I have spoken in all to very few, & wholly responsible persons, & there was no one else in Northford or elsewhere to render this most painful service. Altho I said little of West that is not common knowledge there by many in town - before I uttered a word by many at the Sem for years back before the recent change, yet no one on the payroll of the School can afford to make open complaint. No one could openly defend my course without incurring dismissal; & I wd be sorry to have ~~any friend~~ of the School.



lose the service of any friend of mine on  
this ground. All those members fully  
Dickerson's faculty who were closest  
to the facts despised the methods em-  
ployed to discredit Dr Dickerson, & con-  
curred with my estimate of the abnor-  
mal relation to W.R. that Mr. Dr. had had.  
The Smith College questionnaire the old  
teachers regarded as inept, & so badly  
put together for securing the information  
wanted, that they almost treated it as  
a jest. Like the Smith College women  
learned this - as I suppose she did - she  
requested that every copy found might be  
destroyed. Yet that woman's report, after  
stating that Mr Dickerson's ideals were  
the best known to experts, tho he seemed  
impractical & unable to apply them,  
also stated that she had never visi-  
ted a school in which the average mo-  
rals of the students seemed so high.  
In the 14 yrs of his administration  
40 different colleges sent in their most  
solicited testimonies to the splendid  
quality of North's students in both  
scholarship & character, while his per-  
sonal hold upon the respect, admiration  
& love of the students grew stronger every  
year. Again & again I was told by  
students & teachers that the girls all  
loved him. Little misunderstandings  
infrequently occurred between him & a  
student or a teacher that a little more  
contact wd have dissolved. It was  
so with Miss Hall, & with so with many

Principal - In Chapel no one was so eagerly listened to as Mr. Dickerson in his every day homely talks, for which he made regular & vigorous preparations. Published & unpublished tributes invariably dwell upon the effective value of these brief addresses. No one else, not all the Moody's together, had more than a small fraction of his strong & wholesome religious influence on the girls. To them no one else so effectively perpetuated by precept & example the memory & aims of the Founder. He was also good in personal interviews, & had uncommon tact in dealing with difficult cases of discipline. In his weekly conferences with the seniors & ~~school~~ student officers, secured their enthusiastic attention. Slight disaffection toward him was shown by a few teachers in a few instances, either because he was blamed for action in which he had been overruled & was not responsible, or because he changed a teachers' programme to secure better results all around. He left the school at the top of its public reputation, with a larger hold than ever before on the interest of old students, & yet, in effect, he drove off, ostensibly on the ground of inefficiency & some minor shortcomings that were in no way outweighed by his values. ~~His~~ <sup>His</sup> values ~~frankly~~ <sup>frankly</sup> were Moody & the Trustees were placed under obligations they can never repay. No present nor future prosperity of the schools can ever make good the wrong done to the schools, & to as able, faithful & fruitful workers as were ever employed in North's inquiry capacity. It must, in any way come to understand these facts.





I ought to be suitable  
at this very time for use  
in China.

I wanted it used while  
the author was yet living,  
I suppose it is now too  
late for that. I am too  
unwell to make much  
effort, as long since it  
would have been used.

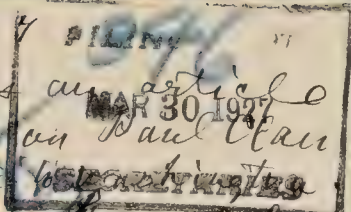
It was first accepted by  
the Record of the War, & so  
abominably mutilated  
by W.R. that I secured  
its recall when I saw  
the proof. Before issue

# Seven Signs of Progress

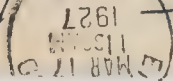
- 1) Fast spread of Gospel to all lands
- (2) Fast spread of apostasy in all churches
- 3) Fast advance of science (in what Lord Bacon calls this autumn of the world)
- 4) Outbreak of spiritism in all accident
- 5) Advance of anarchy in all political & social order
- 6) Rehabilitation of Palestine  
Is 11:11. & ~~Zechariah~~ Zechariah  
Zeph 3:9
- 7) Rehabilitation of Rome.

Swanton Nt. March 15 - 1927

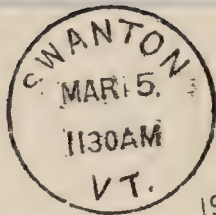
The Outlook for 16<sup>th</sup> inst has an article  
that will interest you greatly in Paul Chan-  
del, new Ambassador of France. He was long in China & Japan, has a valua-  
ble book called La Connaissance de l'Est, &  
is said to possess that "rarest achievement"  
"an insight into the Chinese soul" - the lack of  
which accounts for the enormous mistakes made  
by Europeans in dealing with a delicate situation.  
This achievement was unsurpassed in Dr  
McCarrie. If you will read it & return it to  
me, I will send you my phototype reproductions  
of Mad' Al'geran Parlem. Cordially,  
Yours,



W. W. Raukin







THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mr. Robert E. Speer  
~~Englewood~~  
~~vt.~~

*[Faint, illegible handwriting]*

FILING DEPT.

MAR 30 1927

346  
SECRETARIES

March 29, 1927  
(Dictated March 22)

Mr. Henry W. Rankin  
Swanton, Vermont.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

I thank you very much for your letter of February 28th with its enclosures and your postal card of March 15th.

I had not heard of Claudel's book and I trust that it may be translated into English. Certainly we need to know the truth about China and it is not easy either to discover it or to tell it.

I think you need not trouble to send on your copy of *Andi Alteram Partem* at present. I have to be ~~away~~ a great deal now and would not want to run the risk of losing it.

With regard to Northfield, perhaps I ought to report that I have not resigned from the Board of Trustees, but have resigned as Vice President. With my son as President it seemed to me much better that my name should drop off the letterheads of the School and that I should simply take my place as a member of the Board. As long as I can be of service to the Schools in any way of course I shall be glad to do all I can both for Mr. Hoddy's sake and for Will's sake, and for the sake of the Schools themselves.

Thank you very much for the copy of the New York Sun's review of Mr. Norton's book. I have not seen the book but I know Mr. Norton, and I should judge from the review that the book is a careful account of conditions and that it sets forth some of the facts which need to be known and which are more or less obscured by some.

I trust that the winter is ending in Vermont and that you may have a comfortable and beautiful spring.

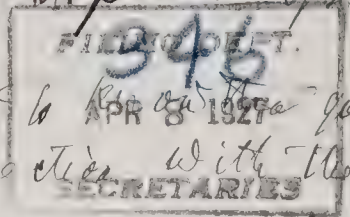
Very cordially yours,

RES/SCL

W. W. Rankin  
Sewanee

April 1, 1927

My dear Dr. Speer



I am greatly pleased to hear that you have not resigned our invitation with the North Bd. I hope you may never do so while your health remains good. Had my duties in other fields permitted by giving to North Bd. conditions all the attention they have needed in past years the recent upheaval wd not have occurred. No one else on the Bd has your range of knowledge & experience in educational problems. Your knowledge of our ground by acquaintance with local affairs will be much closer than in the past.

I judge that Mr. Duley has an easier time than his predecessor found possible, & that the work moves on smoothly. Under the circumstances he was the best choice to make for an interim administration. In view of the extreme difficulty of finding anybody wholly fitted for a place of so great influence - a difficulty that should have been clearly known in advance - Duley may yet be made full Principal; but unless he develops more weight of character than he has ever displayed hitherto, his personal influence on



The character of Faculty & Students will  
not measure up to that of the man  
he replaces. Nevertheless, even  
in the case of Daley, I would say he  
shd be given complete access to the whole  
Bd, & the most unembarrassed opportunity  
to state his own problems, wishes  
& needs, his own reasons for or against  
any debatable proposition, even now  
& before he is made full Principal,  
He shd not be subject to the autocratic  
making of any one person on the Bd.  
— even tho that person were your  
self or your son; because two heads  
to a great school are ~~one~~ too many.  
No man or woman fully competent to  
act as the immediate head-master or  
mistress of a great educational work  
like either one of the North School  
shd be treated as the private employee  
of any one member of the official Bd.  
Such a Principal ~~shd~~ is the peer of  
shd be regarded as ~~in~~ the college of  
of <sup>all</sup> other official guardians; & his  
vote in all debate shd be the equal  
of any other. Otherwise, unless the  
Principal is completely subservient  
to his overlord there will be friction.  
You doubtless weary of my much  
repetition — yet I trust it may not  
prove vain repetition.

I have had the best interests of the North  
at <sup>my</sup> heart much at heart for a much longer  
period of time than any one now  
among its Trustees except the best blood;  
& however insignificant my contribu-  
tion to its welfare may have been, it has  
been the utmost possible to my limited  
strength & means. Nothing but these limits  
hindere me today from doing more ser-  
vice than ever in the past; & this is  
my sole excuse for all my recent words  
& actions in the school affairs. If my  
cause is taken amiss, let it be  
officially investigated in the strictest  
manner by any impartial com-  
mittee of old students & Trustees act-  
ing together. From such an inves-  
tigation I have nothing to fear of the  
consequences to myself, but only of the  
consequences to another.

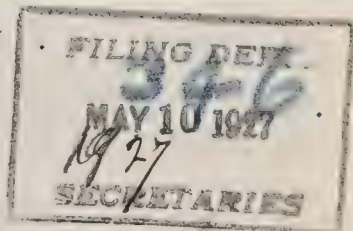
Until my condemnation is officially  
pronounced after such a sitting,  
neither will Moody, nor any body  
else, has the right to accuse me,  
as I am accused, of malice & false  
hood, & slander, abrogance, ignorance  
stirring up public defamations of  
the school, & inciting insubordi-  
nation to rightful authority on the ground.

Altho those charges have been made against me by Bill Moody in writing, under his own signature, my disapproval of his conduct does not lessen in the least my deep solicitude for his welfare; & were it in my power to promote that welfare, I wd spare no effort to do it. I am the same faithful friend to him & his as I have always been, & shall always be; tho he has always held himself aloof from me, & now considers me his enemy. His father & mother to the end of life considered me an intimate friend; of which in their letters I have all the documentary evidence anyone cd wish.

I hope that for a year or two longer no one may be made full Principal. By that time the claims on the Seminary of its last Principal may be better understood. He wd never had a free hand to do his own best, & only needed normal relations with the Bd of Trustees, to prove his exceptional fitness for his office. I say nothing of his wife, & the contrast now. I doubt if any persuasion wd avail to secure his resumption of that office, but he might, at least, be honored as a Trustee. He had been officially & needlessly belittled, while the Principal of Mt A. had been officially honored, & you wd see my estimate of the two men, Concord, N. H. - the W. Rankin



Henry Rankin  
Swanton St,  
April 30



My dear Dr. Speer

5

If you are very kind to send me  
~~the~~ the Report of your recent tour  
in Japan & China. It is such  
testimony as should be well con-  
sidered at the State Dept in Wash-  
ington. It by all who care for the inter-  
ests of the Gospel.

One new factor in the Far East  
situation is the large amount of infidel-  
ity now carried back by native  
students from our schools & col-  
leges, which joined to the naturalistic  
philosophy that has always existed  
in Japan, China & India, in-  
tensifies the anti-Christian attitude there  
as it does here.

So-called modernism in religion is only  
the new term for an old thing, & means  
the determination to interpret Xty in  
conformity with the so-called mod-  
ern view of the world. There was al-  
ways a naturalistic world-view,  
which now in recent years has  
gained immense headway there

the current book "Dogma of Evolution"  
Have you seen that bk of Princeton lectures  
in which Louis Lullone - University Dean  
of the Graduate College of the Univ. of Cin-  
cinnati - puts his head - in the Edus  
mouth? The Bible has its own doctrine  
of organic evolution immeasurably more  
sublime than anything proposed in mod-  
ern science; but few are they who  
will take the trouble, or enjoy the privi-  
lege of finding out what it is.

But the great modern Dogma, seeking to re-  
place the old theological Dogma, is, at  
the hour of its loudest boasting, being  
fast uncoined by its own champions:

(1) <sup>There</sup> Many discoveries that utterly ad-  
versely affect the possibility of agreement with the Dogma,  
save thro' the most far fetched con-  
jectures.

(2) By many concessions fatal to their  
own cause.

(3) <sup>By</sup> <sup>the</sup> Mutual contradictions among  
geologists & biologists equally fatal  
to their theory.

The champions of this theory commonly resent  
~~any~~ criticism made <sup>by</sup> one not a  
professional expert in one of those two  
sciences - biology & geology, & think they  
can furnish a theory to govern all the  
other sciences in which they are not  
at all expert themselves. But the whole  
argument has been before the world





met faced with these other facts goes for no-  
thing. In 1869 when I attended Phillips  
Anderson I read my first bk on evolution  
— the Vestiges of Creation, by Robert Chambers,  
splendidly refuted in 1844 by Albert Dodd  
of Princeton & in 1845 by Taylor Lewis of  
Newark. Since then, I have been reading  
& collecting bks, pro & con that subject  
every year. I have not the smallest  
doubt that this great theory will before  
long share the fate of <sup>the</sup> Ptolemaic astronomy  
which was founded on Aristotle not on  
Scripture.

Yet this theory, & its cor-  
ollary, a naturalistic universe, con-  
stitute the major premise of modern-  
ism in theology — which, when logically  
produced, leaves us with no Christ  
at all, & a faded out theism at best.

Now this faded out theism is <sup>still</sup> possessed,  
but never worked, by nearly every  
pagan race in the world, civilized  
or savage, in Asia, Africa, & the  
Islands, & aboriginal America.

To this dark issue are we being  
crushed by the men of science & their  
theological puppets, who refuse the  
Mind of Christ, & repudiate his  
convictions regarding the past & future  
of earth & man.

The X<sup>th</sup> World for April 14. p. 470. has  
a remarkable testimony from Bertrand  
Russell as to what is going on the minds  
of the Chinese. He is quoted as saying that  
"the only ones who show any real understanding  
of the Chinese are the missionaries, & what they say  
is worth listening to." This from Russell!  
Cordially yrs — H. W. Raublin

for further silence. Had I been in good health, able to come & go, & meet those persons I wished to see, my protest wd have come years before it did. I wd have brought my questions & objections directly to Will Moody, & would have personally brought them before several Trustees; I wd then have hoped to make the protest & my testimony far more effective than it was. I hold myself responsible for all that I have done, & for every word I have spoken in School matters. With the welfare of these institutions I have identified my own life to the full limit of my means & strength; & however insignificant my contribution may appear to Will Moody or even to Albert, who knows me much better, it was my all, & was not at all insignificant to D. L. Moody or his wife, or the early Trustees, or to many hundred former students & their teachers. For this reason it was my right to protest any injury I saw done to the work; & since there was no one else to do it, it was also my duty. Since I have told no thing but the truth, & told it in love, not malice, I have nothing to retract & no thing to repeat. The case against Will Moody's ~~judgment~~ wisdom & conduct is far stronger than I made it, & it was quite as much to spare him, as to guard my own words that instead



of going to him I addressed the Trustees,  
Had the four men, as an informal com-  
mitted voted alone on my communica-  
tion, they could have brought about in  
open session whatever change was best  
in the method of administration ~~with~~  
on the general merits of the situation,  
with no public or large reference to any  
thing in my letter, & no humiliation  
of W.R. traceable to that source. The  
general principles involved are obvious  
enough, & alone sufficient to do away  
with the abnormal relation to the Bd of  
Trustees in which, since the death of the  
founder, the school principals had been  
placed. It is not right that any one  
Trustee, ~~save~~ <sup>after</sup> the founder, should be  
made Lord Paramount to those school  
masters, whose personal vote on  
school matters should equal that  
of any other person on the Managing  
Board. & should have direct ~~super-~~  
sentation in all discussion.

If then the school master himself, or  
herself, is objected to on any ground  
of unfitness or mistaken method,  
specific objections should be openly  
presented, & the man should be ex-  
pected to answer for himself, with every  
opportunity for defense in open confer-  
ence.

The methods used to discredit



The attainable grounds of objection to him were not the relative grounds.

Mr Dickerson were contemptible, & the results found will not endure lifting. Had the faults found in him been specified to him for his direct answer, he would have given an answer that would have sent some of the findings into limbo, & made the remainder seem so trivial when weighed against the solid values of his splendid work for both <sup>the</sup> schools, that no charges would have been pressed beyond a friendly re-commendation to try another method at some few points.

The question should have been not, primarily, whether he had <sup>not</sup> some faults, we all have these; but whether his values did not far outweigh his faults; Again, whether he had ever had a free hand to do his own best — which he never had.

Again, whether actual defects in his administration would not have disappeared, or greatly diminished had he been treated as a colleague by the Trustees, with the freedom of friendly discussion, During all of his years in New York I knew him well, & knew the kind of influence Mr Dickerson exerted; as I have also known well Moody well, & the kind of influence he exerts — which in both school & town has for many years been the reverse of his father's. I know what I am saying, & hold myself responsible to God & man.

Very Sincerely & cordially yours - Henry Wm Rankin.  
P.S. This card is for no answer, but only for consideration.

A present senior girl at the Seminary re-  
cently told a teacher that it seemed as if  
some indefinable thing had left the Seminary  
with the going away of Mr Dickerson, a  
certain dignity about the whole place. Next  
year none of the girls will be there whom  
Mr Dickerson influenced, & it wd not sur-  
prise me to learn that already some fal-  
ling off could be discerned in the aver-  
age morale of that school, & the self re-  
straint observed during all of Mr Dic-  
erson's later years, as he grew into his  
position. The girl just quoted was in  
an underclass ~~year~~ in 1925, & the two  
upper classes, & all student officers, were  
those whose came most directly into con-  
tact with their Principal.

Why did the Smith College investigator  
say she had never visited a school in  
which the average morale of the students  
seemed so high - & then also say that  
while Mr Dickerson seemed to have the  
best educational ideals recognized any  
where, yet he seemed impractical,  
unable to make them effective?

The chief aim of education in Northfd is  
to make it Christian; & no person at the Sem,  
after Miss Hall, had any approach to the range  
of Christian influence exerted by Mr Dickerson.  
This abundantly attested, & all the deacons  
put together had not a fraction of his influ-  
ence. While his academic influence was such  
that during his incumbency of office 40 different  
colleges sent in their unsolicited tributes to the  
high quality of scholarship & character shown  
by the Northfd girls. It is this quality of the product  
that makes possible raising so much money.  
The financial agent advertised the goods he does not  
produce.



Wm Rankin

Princeton N.J. 46 Spring St

June 7.

FILING DEPT.

JUN 19 1927

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My dear Dr Speer:

I am again in Princeton, ~~hoping to stay here~~ at least thro the Summer. unless obliged to enter a hospital. No surgical conditions are always hanging over me, I know not how soon that may be. I love this place, & enjoy here every facility for the studies I wish before too late may bear some fruit - every facility but health, which seems far off. Therefore I am faint, yet enduring.

I imagine your duties at the General Assembly, have prevented your presence in Northfield at this time, tho you are likely to go there before long. I have seen but the briefest reports of what was done at the Assembly, but am glad you presided. I hope that none of those men who joined you in repeating the Apostles' Creed, did so with any mental reservation - tho I fear some did.

In Stanley Hall - trained under dear Hopkins & Henry B Smith, before his attendance on Wundt's laboratory in Leipzig, said he could recite the Apostles' Creed as heartily as any man; but to every clause he attached an esoteric meaning that voided all the historic sense. & wd mean nothing to the common man.

Subscribing to a fixed formula with mental reservation proved the wreck of Andover Seminary, & sooner or later will wreck any Sem. & any church,



The Westminster Confession is not perfect at all points,  
but no layman is called on to accept it.  
For most laymen it is very good, & they are  
free to supplement or subtract at pleasure.  
But it constitutes the platform of the clergy who  
subscribe to it; & if they don't like it they shd  
alter by constitutional methods, or get out  
there are other churches demanding no  
more than <sup>such men</sup> they can believe. But common  
honesty should surely bar any man from  
solemn subscription to the Westminster Confession  
as it stands written unless he freely holds  
to it all.

It is not publicly known  
that after the trial of David Swing for  
preaching at variance with this Confession,  
when his prosecutor was denounced as  
a heresy hunter by many, Swing said  
to Dr Patton that Patton's ground was en-  
tirely correct, that Patton had done only  
what he should have done, & that Swing  
himself shoud not have functioned as  
a Presbyterian clergyman while preaching  
views contrary to that Confession; that in  
fact the trial released him from bonds  
he could not honestly endure, & the open  
platform he subsequently enjoyed was  
better for himself & all concerned.

There was never any personal controversy  
or ill will between the men. Dr Patton  
himself has learned much since his Chica-  
go days, yet can still keep honestly within  
Presbyterian limits for himself, appreciate  
the good in all opponents, abjures the ordin-  
mydogism, & still remains what I heard  
him called by an Episcopal rector in

The doctrine most popular in science is the gage of science because involving the specification of nature.

North's after Patton's last visit there, the strongest defender of the faith now living. I hope the present dispute at the Sem. in this place may soon end with an honorable & adequate adjustment. No theological school in the world has hitherto been stronger, more united or more fruitful of good than this of Princeton, despite a somewhat overbearing attitude to dissent from its dogmas in past years - an attitude long abandoned. But it cannot hope to retain this strength & value for the future, if theological criticism enters its Bd of Management & its Faculty. Modernism in theology is only a futile attempt to conform Scripture to the modern view of the world. The major premise of that view - in so far as consistently maintained - is the assumption of a naturalistic universe - a universe from which divine initiative is everywhere excluded. This assumption is a universal negative, which not only never can be proved, but is opposed to contrary evidence of vast extent that has not been refuted - but by the modernist is either travestied or ignored. Miracle, such as Scriptural records, of which the irreducible minimum is some origination act of God, is not only inseparable from the Hebrew & X<sup>u</sup> revelation but is a constituent factor of the whole world order. Eliminate all the miracles of X<sup>ty</sup>, & no X<sup>ty</sup> remains. Eliminate all initial causality from the natural order & that order as we now see it, would be unrecognizable. Modernism in theology & science is fast digging its own grave. Its formal admission to



a place ~~in the~~ among the teachers of Princeton  
Sem., Northfd Schools or Foreign Missions,  
can only undermine the evangelical values  
in each case.

I am sorry to trouble you again with Northfd  
affairs, but in view of the fact that, in retaliation  
for my strictures on his conduct of the schools,  
Will Hoody has accused me of malice &  
falseness & slander, ignorance, arrogance,  
& effort to defame the schools & undermine  
their proper authority, it is my right & duty  
to answer for myself; but the following is  
all I wish to say here. If these charges  
are repeated among the Trustees or old Students,  
or old friends of mine - to your knowledge, or  
that of any friend, I hope it may be under-  
stood that before my condemnation is accept-  
ed on the testimony of this one man or his  
family I ought to have had a fair hearing. I wish  
it known that I am ready, at any time to face  
the severest investigation of my conduct  
the old Students or Trustees can devise; that  
from such an investigation I have nothing  
to fear for myself, but it would be fatal  
to the real applicant, the evidence on which my  
action was based, & by which it was warranted,  
is stronger & larger than he ~~would~~ himself  
would dare to face, unless under conviction of  
conscience he were ready to acknowledge ~~his~~  
The evidence at my disposal had the strongest  
possible corroboration from several unimpeacha-  
ble sources after Comarce's death was over  
in June 1925. What I have done has been done  
solely in the interest of common justice & the  
welfare of the schools; of which schools the old  
students are the proper constituency, with a right  
to know their conditions, & of which interests the  
Trustees are the official guardians. Knowing all of  
25 yrs after the founder's death the propriety of, Will Hoody  
to exercise the authority vested in <sup>him</sup> over the internal policy  
& head masters of these schools & the injustice of treating  
these principals as the hired servants of one man, I never-  
less held my tongue until the wrong had grown too great



A. W. Rankin  
Princeton N.J. 46

FILED DEPT.

SEP 17 1927

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SECRETARIES

RECEIVED Sept 10. 1927

SEP 11 1927  
My dear Dr Spear:

Mr. Speer

Mr. Fitt has already added considerable material to Will's collection bearing on the biography of his father, & in case Will gets well started on the task I have no doubt Mr. Fitt will do his best to help him. But lest the health of W.R. should not permit this undertaking, I do not think it wd harm the situation if you should tell Mr. Revell that in Mr. Fitt a good alternative is available. & should be provided for. Meanwhile very much time has already been lost, & must further be lost, in the systematic research indispensable to the task. This research should cover this County & Wt Britain with close inquiry in many sources. Too many of the best sources in personal memories are already out of reach, & are rapidly diminishing.

But even if W.R. should retain health for this work, he is not fitted to do

What is needed - neither in equipment  
of study nor in personal character.  
I know how much you have always  
liked & trusted him, You have seen  
much of his best side, & of that he  
has much to show, His personal bear-  
ing toward those on whom he leans for  
his own position & support, or for  
large material aid to the schools, is  
very different from his bearing towards  
those whom he regards as subordinates,  
or whose influence he considers negli-  
gible to his own plans & ends.

But I have also seen a great deal of  
him at close range, & know well  
how immensely his unguarded conduct  
& character in his own home field  
of labor life & labor have marked his  
personal influence there for good.  
Until two yrs ago I never had the  
least personal friction with him,  
& never spoke a word to undermine  
the confidence & authority vested in  
him. On the contrary, I had occa-  
sion again & again to defend him  
from the invectives of others. find  
excuses for his manners, & to express  
my emphasis on his merits & values,

But he carried his high hand once too far. Never yet has he shown the least sign of repenting his flagrant injustice to many, nor the least recognition that he has been unjust, even where his obligations were very large. The more confidence & authority he rec'd the more he abused it; for, as his own sister told me a dozen years ago, he has been spoiled by too much prosperity.

He has not the conscience, moral insight, character, to handle, as it needs, his father's career; nor has he ever made the studies requisite to show that career in its historical perspective, & its relation to contemporary religious life & thought.

Perhaps nothing can be done about it while he lives, but the longer the delay the more impossible is an adequate biography. I have no doubt that he could produce a work of interest & value, but never the standard memoir that we lack. You probably see this as plainly as I do - so such a work his might well stand in the same relation as the book on Ralph Waldo Emerson by his son Edward to the standard work by Cabot - that Geo Bowen had finished reading, & was on the point of re-



viewing, when his own death occurred at about  
the same age, & of the same illness, as that  
of Emerson. Geo. Bowen, in his youth, was  
familiar with Emerson's early work, &  
would have appraised the final record  
with his own rare background of expe-  
rience & learning. I heard Emerson  
lecture several times, when attending  
Phillips Andover & later, & have made  
life long study of the man. He was never  
a pantheist, as commonly charged by the  
McCos' orthodox, who knew too little philosophy  
to read him rightly. He used some am-  
biguous expressions, which, isolated from  
his total context, would be misleading.  
But so did Jonathan Edwards, & many  
another. Even McCosh was accused in  
the old time Princeton Review of a panthe-  
istic drift only a short time before he ac-  
hieved to be President here. But Emerson  
was the best exponent the last century produced  
anywhere - & better than Kant - of a severely  
naturalistic theism. His insight into the teleo-  
logical & moral order of the world ~~would~~ <sup>would</sup>  
shame that of many orthodox clergy, while  
the theism & ethics without miracle that heat-  
tested males all the literatures of modernism  
cheap compared with his. If I could not re-  
cite Con amore, & with full conviction of their  
historic sense as true the Apostles' & the Nicene  
Creeds - I wd be an Emersonian. That is the best  
alternative left if the Xty of all scriptures must  
go. Modern theology is not based on the consensus  
of scripture testimony, but on modern cosmology. If  
that cosmology is as pernicious, I will yet go to the  
scrap heap. James Condie, H. W. Rankin

SEP 14 1927

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SECRETARIESSeptember 9, 1927  
(Dictated September 7)

Mr. Henry W. Rankin  
46 Spring Street  
Princeton, New Jersey

*re Biography of D.L. Moody*

My dear Mr. Rankin:

Your letters of August 24th and 25th were duly received and I had no opportunity to reply until today, or to hand on the letters to John McDowell.

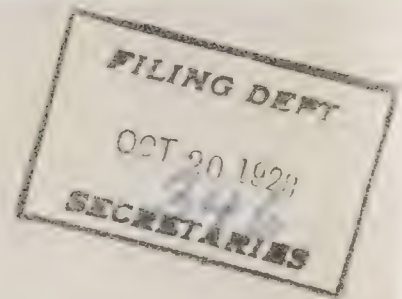
When I was at Northfield speaking at one of the conferences this summer I was in Will Moody's study and saw the quantities of material which he had gathered and is gathering there and clarifying and working on in connection with the biography of his father. I understand that he has this fully on his mind and heart now and knowing this I could not possibly go to Mr. Revell and suggest that he initiate an independent project and place it in the hands of Mr. Fitt or any one else. Mr. Revell himself and Will are the two people more interested and concerned than any others and with my knowledge of Will's plans, if I understand them correctly, and my affection and regard for him, I could not act in the way you suggest.

Will and I have often talked about the biography and I told him of what I had hoped it might yet be and I hope that either he or some one else will be able to produce what we ought to have. Years ago Will spoke to me about undertaking it but I told him I did not feel at all competent for it - that an adequate biography called, it seemed to me, for careful study of the religious life and theological opinions of the nineteenth century, which I should never have time to undertake; and it called also for other qualities which I did not feel that I possessed.

I do not know whether Will's health will enable him to take up the work vigorously and steadfastly, but time will show. Meanwhile I should think that if Mr. Fitt has materials available it would be well to assemble them with all that Will has so that everything might be together, either for Will's work or for the work of any one else to whom the gigantic task might come.

Very cordially yours,

RWS/B



October 19, 1928  
(Dictated Oct. 18)

Rev. Thomas Coyle  
Westhampton Beach,  
Long Island

My dear Mr. Coyle,

I am very much obliged for the second copy of your printed appeal in behalf of Mr. Rankin. I regret this delay in responding to the earlier call. I enclose a small check and only regret that I have not been able to send a larger contribution. If you do not succeed in getting the full amount needed I shall be glad if you will let me know.

Very sincerely yours,

RES/E



# Speers

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D. L. on Trinity & of  
Fenu.

Emerson & Hawthorne  
on Christ.

Emerson's Trinity  
& La. Theism

Allott's Confession

Hegel & W. L. Harris

North's Echoes

Ordman's of

Dogmas,

X the Emperor.

Massoliki.

F. L. Patton - & W. L. Harris

Willet Window

Sermon to  
Jenn. E. Clarke &  
Geo. H. Gordon

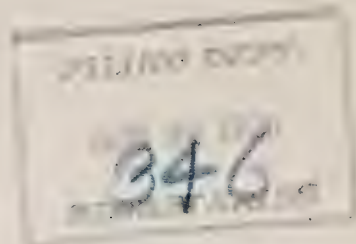
Greatest Window in America by  
made by William Willet of Phila-  
delphia. B. 1868, D. 1921. Engraved in  
Princeton under the inscription:  
Neither count I my life dear unto myself,  
to testify the gospel of the grace of God,  
Acts 20:24. The Dr. of Andover,  
drawing all his inspiration from life-  
long study of the Bible, his technique  
from the greatest masters of 18th century  
'wre glass', whose lost art he first  
in modern times reproduced & im-  
proved, creating sermons in glass  
that never weary, from the scenes,  
events, predictions & parables  
of Christ & all Scripture.  
Spined descendant of the first Eng-  
lish mayor of N. York. Phil of La  
George & Van Chase. Spent years in  
Europe. Became a portrait painter of  
singular merit, & preeminent original-  
ity as worker in glass. Began pro-  
fession in Pittsburgh. Moved to Phila-  
delphia. Elder in Second Presbyterian  
Ch. Life shortened by grief over modern  
defection from old faith of many in  
his own well guarded communion.  
All the windows in new Chapel of West  
Paint made by him, & his wife, receiv-  
ing order in competition with 18 strong-  
est firms of Europe & America. A  
very great artist & pronounced  
Christian





Proctor Memorial Hall.  
Princeton University.

*Henry Rankin*



1928

Henry W. Rankin  
Princeton N.J.  
46 Spring St.  
June 26, 1928

FILING DEPT.  
3426  
JUN 2 1928  
SECRETARIES

Can you send me a large copy of 97 & 98 copies of the Assembly 2  
& Cant pay for them.

My dear Dr. Speer:  
Every word of your address at the Assembly has my complete accord & sympathy. Until I found in Christ my one foundation, & adequate criterion of all truth covered by his teaching, his claims, his powers & his supernatural function in all time & space, I had no rest for my wandering inquiries of my soul. I was, of course, bred on the Westminster Confession, committing to memory (not to heart) the whole Shorter Catechism when I was nine yrs old, & much that went with it. I had theology <sup>taught</sup> in the home. I heard all parts of Scripture, be those who not only were convinced of its entire truth but who exemplified its teaching far better than most in lives of self-sacrificing love. But I always kicked against the pricks, & never until 25 yrs old deliberately set out to read the Bible, & whole Bible for myself, with voluntary & close attention to find out what was in it & the light I sorely needed for myself. If you had not knocked all my plans in the head, & brought me to the end of my own resources at that time, I might not to this day have taken that course. Even then my creed was an irreducible



minimum - or nearly that. I was not at all  
sure then what claims Christ actually made  
for himself, or are made for him in the N.T.  
For all of ten years I was, in effect, a Unitarian,  
& was that when I first went to Wallingford  
in 1881. I was very sure that some ex-  
cent orthodox interpretations of Scripture were  
misinterpretations, but tho' already ~~long~~  
acquainted with leading objections to the authen-  
ticity of Scripture, & the historical validity of its  
narrative, I never seriously doubted that.  
I had too often heard it read with adequate  
expression by consecrated lips ~~not~~ to  
avoid a deep impression of its self-authenti-  
cating quality, & unity of message, that all  
subsequent study has confirmed. But precisely  
what its several doctrines were, & what were  
the claims Christ made for himself, & were  
made for him in the Gospels, Acts & Epistles,  
I could not feel sure till these were all brought  
together in my mind by much repeated read-  
ing, <sup>in</sup> a single conspectus, thro' which the glory  
of his godhead shined. Even then I was still  
confounded by the doctrinal dogma of the Trinity;  
until at last even the Nicene formula ex-  
pressed for me not only the united indica-  
tions of Scripture, but a rational grounding  
in the necessary implications of Theism.  
To this day, I have not been able to ac-  
cept the Chalcedonian conception of two  
natures, but think the Bible means some-  
thing better - far better - than this; & also better  
than Calvin & Augustine thought of decrees;  
& a far better eschatology, & scheme of world-  
order, than the old theology ever gave us.

But even before I believed the deity of Christ,  
I accepted him as an adequate & final cri-  
terion of the mind of God in all matters  
covered by his teaching, claims, powers - & so

far, as I could discover what these were. My doctrinal development was much helped by three Unitarian writers who have powerfully defended the Johannine authenticity of the Fourth Gospel — Ezra Abbot, H. P. Peabody & Edmund Hamilton Sears. In Northampton I first became convinced that ~~the~~ future advent of Christ would inaugurate, & not merely conclude an age of righteousness on earth, in which man's history in his still mortal state would culminate, & completely vindicate the whole foregoing providence of God. But this view, & all the other increase of light was gained, less from attendance upon preaching, than from persistent, habitual consecutive study of all Scriptures, & waiting upon God, its primary author.

For me the whole Bible is <sup>now</sup> one book, exhibiting different aspects & stages of one message; all of it centered in Christ, the highest organ of divine revelation, & final criterion of all truth — involved in that revelation, & largest factor in the whole world-order. He is not extrinsic to that order, but its centre & key; the largest fact in human experience, both past & present, & only solvent of our largest problem. Hence Pascal says: who knows not Christ knows not the order of the world, knows not himself.

In finding Christ the only & adequate foundation of all Christian thought & life, I also find him the <sup>most</sup> important & illuminating fact for all <sup>history,</sup> science & philosophy; & find in him ~~the~~ all sufficient <sup>point of departure</sup>, in construct



ing a theology; the one empirical fact on which  
to found & test the whole system of revealed  
truth. A theology that begins with <sup>the</sup> attributes  
of God, begins in the order of reality,  
by postulating first a self-existent, absolute  
Being, such as ought to be the first postu-  
late of all philosophy, & after has been.

A Christo-centric theology that begins with  
Christ, begins with the largest fact of  
man's actual experience, & tests all ex-  
perience by that fact. The first plan  
is that of Ch. Wodge, - the second of H. B. Smith,  
Martin Luther & D. L. Moody <sup>et al.</sup>. Both plans  
are feasible, & profitable; but the second  
is better for the pulpit, church & private  
believer.

In Jerusalem you found Christ the suffi-  
cient nexus of all ~~the~~ churches that accept  
the Apostles & the Nicene Creed. But even  
this acceptance of Christ involves some  
clear definitions to start with, & the en-  
suing development of a doctrinal system.  
The Christian ~~dogma~~ needs no system  
to begin with, beyond some clear  
views of Christ's place in world-order  
& in man's redemption. But the  
teaching elders of any church should  
have some measure of doctrinal sys-  
tem on which they can agree, to main-  
tain mutual harmony in their work.  
Hence I think there is valid reason for  
the insistence on a theological platform,  
subject to constitutional revision, on  
no part of Presbyterian, Methodist, or Episco-  
palian clergy, Greek, Roman or Georgian.



the way of looking for some other way of stating the social ad. will,

It'll the preaching & conferences of D.L. Moody set out from Christ in much the same way as the Mission Conference at Jerusalem. The best statement of his doctrinal position I have ever seen is in the new volume about him written by Erdman. Yet besides this exaltation of Christ, D.L. made much of a dozen or so fundamental doctrines inseparable from the plea & work of Christ, central & interdependent doctrines that cannot be too well defined - tho' no definition should be reckoned final & beyond improvement. D.L. Moody's preaching was dogmatic in substance, without the dogmatic ~~spirit~~ <sup>temper</sup>; but the dogmas common to all evangelical churches, he held indispensable; & wished them taught in every ~~school~~ church school, in the best light & best spirit. Apart from the hope that they would be perpetually so taught in the North? Schools those schools would never have existed. He wanted those doctrines taught to all first year students, & so impressed upon their minds, ~~to~~ as never to be forgotten, even if such students remained but one year at the school. That could only be effectively done by teachers of unusual quality; but for a few years it was done by just such teachers - teachers whose understanding of those doctrines was truly Scriptural, clear & experimental; whose sympathies were so large, & temper so irenic that they could avoid denominational ~~controversies~~ disputes;

& whose personal interest in the souls of their pupils was so marked, that many decisions for Christ would be reached among them: This was the actual result in the first years of the Northfield schools. There is no position on the Northfield faculties so hard to fill as that of Bible teachers who know how to do this work; while the number of pupils in attendance calls for many such teachers. First of all they must know Christ in Scripture & in their own experience, & then set out from Christ to know God, & all the evangelical doctrines, & requirements, the Law & the gospel — not confused together, but clearly distinguished, & all the corner-stones of these two great foundations, much as Martin Luther learned these things — Christ himself being his bedrock.

D. L. once asked me to draw up an outline of the fundamental doctrines for use in the schools. Little did he know the depths of my ignorance at that time. I began with the attributes of God. But he said what do we know of God till we know Christ? The philosophical approach to the knowledge of God has an irresistible attraction for many minds, & is a legitimate approach. The apostle Paul



in Romans requires it, & holds the Creator  
incapable for not so knowing God  
in his Power & his divine Personality,  
& even perhaps in his goodness. I suppose  
Paul had in mind not the common people  
but their leaders & teachers. As a matter  
of fact the Greek development of philosophy  
involved this very seeking after God,  
its result in the three magnates of Greek  
thought, & some others, fully justifies the  
assertion of Paul that by this way the  
invisible things of God might truly be  
known, as a rational inference from  
the things wrought in nature & man.  
Philosophy has not been always futile,  
- tho we could better afford to lose that  
all the philosophy since Christ than that  
of the Greeks before Christ. In that  
was anticipated all the important  
problems & solutions of after times,  
& in that may be found all the logi-  
cal antecedents of Christianity.  
In that philosophy the Church fathers got  
their own education for laying the  
foundations of Christian theology.  
Even those who, like Tertullian, found  
most fault with it, nevertheless were  
trained by that philosophy for their own  
work in theology; while Clement,  
Origen, Athanasius, Augustine &  
Hilary fully recognized their obliga-  
tions to that discipline, & Augustine  
could say who despises philosophy despises  
- truth. That last letter of Cicero to Hortensius  
by which Augustine was so profoundly



moved to set out upon his search for God,  
was ~~to~~ certainly used of God in his con-  
version. But like Augustine - with his  
sorrowing mother & his disordered life, I  
applied myself to philosophy long before  
I applied myself heartily to the Gospel;  
while the Gospel offers the short cut to the  
indispensable knowledge of God. In Christ  
we have the adequate exponent & exegesis  
of God, even before we become practically  
acquainted with the Bible. Hence a little  
child may learn to know God, while a  
philosopher may spend sixty years in  
vain pursuit. For the Gospel offers the  
short cut. This was the trouble with  
Wm James, whose father declared himself  
an "abject Christian" (or slave of Christ)  
Wm James was one of the most lovable  
men who ever taught in an American  
college. He taught physiology before  
teaching psychology & philosophy -  
tho the objective of all his research  
was to find God, & to find what he  
spoke of as "a balm for souls"

~~See the last p~~ I was for a short time  
his pupil in physiology at the Harvard  
medical school - for like James I wish-  
ed to lay the physical underpinning of  
metaphysics. In Princeton already I  
had received all the philosophy taught  
by McCosh & Atwater & Shields, & then  
something in Germany. But not yet had  
I given myself to learn the Gospel.

Like Augustine & ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~far~~ <sup>far</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~Wm~~ <sup>Wm</sup> James I was taking the long way around to reach my goal - tho' thank God not entirely in vain. During the last fifteen yrs of the life of Wm James I enjoyed with him a profitable & intimate correspondence, one of his letters to me publ'd in the volumes of his correspondence sums up his conception of the spiritual universe better than any of his books. He alone <sup>among</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~Men~~ <sup>of</sup> of Science openly & frequently championed the volume by Dr Meigs that I edited on Chinese instances of Possession. This led to our interchange of letters. He had given close attention to the phenomena of spiritism, but it wearied him; & his last years were especially devoted to religious experience of the higher kind. I helped him get material for his Gifford Lectures - as you will see in his Preface. His health was breaking all those years, & as he been spared in health some five years longer he would have found Christ, because he would have found all the best instances of religious experience connected with the redemption that is in Christ. He was not more interested in philosophy than was Richard Baxter, Joseph Alleine, Berkeley, Butler, Howe, & that great Scotch Bishop - what was his name, who wrote the Commentary on Peter, & so much more? I know him well in his writings, & I gave <sup>me</sup> my first real meta-



physical insight into the theistic argument. He  
was one of my father's favorites - my memory  
plays tricks, for I am sick & 77. ~~But~~  
Any way, when James was headed toward  
Christ, but taking the long way around to  
find him. He was a man who had the full  
courage of his convictions, & would have  
given splendid testimony in time. I believe  
he will do that yet in another dispensa-  
tion, as I do not follow all the Princeton  
eschatology. The Bible has much to be  
defended from its friends. See in the  
biography of E. A. Gordon who conducted  
the funeral of James ~~the~~ letter from the widow.

What more than anything else  
~~has~~ hindered him, if not that major  
premise of modern thought that plays  
havoc in all the churches - the assump-  
tion of a naturalistic universe? For  
this, tho' old enough in history, the modern  
bogue is more due to Darwin than to  
any other one man. If you doubt this

read Samuel Bradford's bk on Dar-  
win, written immediately <sup>after</sup> his bash on  
Moody, tho' publ'd first. In those two  
bashes that belong together, as mutually  
complemental, Bradford shows how  
of all men in the last century Darwin  
did most to undermine faith in God,  
as J. L. Moody did most to build it up.

Now this major premise, held more or less  
consistently by all those scholars who  
try to reconstruct the Bible in conformity  
with the modern view of the world - hence



Modernism in theology — was held by James,  
— he being a Harvard professor — but was  
getting undermined by his studies in  
spiritism & religious experience, once ac-  
cepted the proposition that God not only keeps  
the universe going, like an immortal dynamo,  
but also starts the universe going, & at  
suitable junctures in world order origi-  
nates new conditions which are not ne-  
cessitated products of natural ante-  
cedents, & we have all the necessary  
ground for the great revelation in Scrip-  
ture as it stands written. The new theology

is based on the new cosmology — not on  
Scripture; but this new cosmology is  
not warranted by the best attested  
facts in either natural history or  
human history. It is a false con-  
ception of world order doomed to the  
scrap heap; but maintained as an obsession  
by those who never adequately study the  
contrary evidence. A cogent new refuta-  
tion of this false conception is a recent  
course of University lectures given in  
Princeton two yrs ago on The Dogma of  
Evolution; a bk disliked by all the  
Princeton evolutionists because they cannot  
possibly answer it in any effective  
way, & have been so long publicly com-  
mitted to a mistaken premise no  
derrick can make them budge.  
But that courageous book by an eminent

Physicist & historian of science, L. J. Moore,  
- brother of Paul Elmer Moore the Vallenist,  
is only one of twenty that no evolutionist  
can answer without undermining himself.  
Now here lies the fund malis with our  
New theologians, who even when, like  
Dr Wainwright, they profess your own  
confidence in Christ, & your own ascrip-  
tion of all authority to him, will yet repa-  
diat Christ's own convictions regarding  
the Old Testament, its events, history, super-  
natural sanction. The validity of its pre-  
dictions, & its persuading witness to the  
coming Messiah to which Christ himself  
(repeatedly) called attention as supporting his own  
supernatural claims, powers  
knowledge & function.

These men approve the moral attitude  
of Christ, & his testimony to the absolute  
goodness of God - which even Plato saw  
with so little empirical evidence to help him -  
But they do not approve many of Christ's  
intellectual convictions, by which his  
moral attitude is conditioned. These  
men may be Christians, but illogical;  
& their confidence in Christ is meagre  
compared with the demands Christ makes  
on all of us.

The Christianity of D. G. Moody & all the older  
theologians all lay between two fully recognized  
events - the creation of man in the image of  
God, & the incarnation of God in the image  
of man. Grant these two events, with the



fall or lapse of man from the moral nor-  
mal - Scripture does not teach an original  
~~solid~~ holiness, which involves deliberate  
self-consecration - & all the rest of Scrip-  
ture follows as the corollary of these truths.  
All the miracles of Scripture are anticipa-  
ted in the whole constitution of Nature,  
~~with~~ <sup>and</sup> so far from being interferences  
with world order are an integral part of  
that order. Hence Bishop Butler says  
that to an observer better situated than  
man to observe ~~to observe~~ the whole course  
of events, the whole scheme of Creation, & Re-  
demption, Christianity, with all its mir-  
acles, must seem as natural, i.e. as  
much in keeping with the Plan of the whole,  
as the most familiar facts of observation!  
- The blooming flower & the rising sun.  
For an hundred years, Bishop Butler's Analogy  
was taught in most of our colleges,  
& was taught here when I attended college,  
it is still as valid as ever in its reasoning,  
& unequalled as a rational defence of it.  
- tho it does not cover all the questions  
of that agnosticism which since Darwin  
has so widely prevailed among educa-  
ted men.

Now then; How can the Churches unite  
on the simple basis of devotion to Christ  
where there is no agreement as to who &  
what Christ is? Or How can the ~~Members~~



clergy of any one denomination, possessing as its working platform clearly defined articles of faith, be authorized to teach such contradictory propositions as the adequacy of Christ to govern all religious faith & practice, & his inadequacy to pass judgment on the foregoing revelation, the history of his own nation, & a world-order that apart from Christ would never have existed?

These illogical Christian modernists are in a bad case; while they may properly be admitted, as babes in Christ, to the fellowship of potential saints, I do not see how they can be ordained to the ministry of the Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Methodist or Baptist Church.

They call themselves liberal Christians, as the Unitarians & Universalists have done for an hundred years - at least.

With them the modernists all belong, until they reach a better understanding of the first principles of Christianity.

In the wisdom of this age they have all the advantages of the Corinthian Christians whom Paul addressed as babes in Christ, but have not advanced very far toward that full assurance of understanding which he sets forth as the goal of Christian knowledge. They are like the Hebrew Christians who, considering the time since they believed, ought indeed to be teachers, yet have need to be themselves taught the first principles of the oracles of God.

Why should such men be ordained to the ministry, on subscription to a Creed they only half believe - if that. Paul himself only knew in part & prophesied in part, & says that if any man thinks he knows anything, yet he knows it not as he ought to know. This ought to humble the dogmatic temper of any man. Nevertheless, some definite attainments in faith should be made by any man appointed to teach others, & these attainments are best represented by the creeds of the several churches - which, if changed as requirements of the ministry, should be changed by common agreement of a church in a constitutional way.

I think any man is a scabber in the ministry who holds an authorized commission to teach & preach on the basis of a confession that he makes with mental reservation. He may intend no wrong, or be self deceived, but he misleads the people who sit under him.

The present faculty of the Princeton Seminary may be doctrinally united, but other Seminaries - some of them Presbyterian in their foundations - support teachers who have drifted far from these foundations, & who insist on ordaining to the ministry of a strongly Confessional Church like minded wanderers who do not honestly represent the grounds upon which their own church exists. These men who are highly critical of old views criticise everything but their own premises, & take

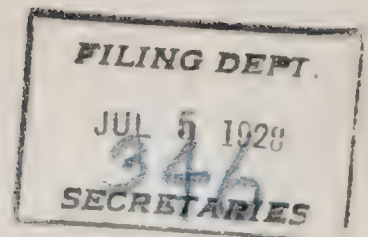


Therefore granted, because they are the popular opinions of the day - however often & completely they have been refuted. They reason by attorney logic - as Carlyle calls it, & ignore, or grossly travestys, contrary evidence. Their rationalism is not half rational enough, for they have yet to learn that the whole body of Bible teaching as given us, unreconstructed, is grounded in amply attested facts of actual experience, & self-evident principles of necessary reason. No form of religion exists half so reasonable as Christianity in its most evangelical form.

Here in Princeton has just been dedicated a two million dollar chapel in which many ten cent sermons will be preached. These academic sermons deal in the abstract generalities of religion, but set forth no Christian law or gospel in a way to grip the conscience or the heart. Either these preachers have not the courage of their convictions, or they set out from a misconception of the actual world order. The true method of intellectual adjustment between the data of life & data of modern science was seen best of all of seventy years ago by Chas W. Shields, who wrote the best organon of research the entire history of philosophy can exhibit. It has proved a staff rejected in the swift transition of modern thought. The appeal for such an adjustment, published in the Princeton Alumni Weekly for June 22<sup>d</sup> was all foreseen & provided for in the successive vols of Shields' *Philosophia Ultima*.  
Yours cordially,  
Henry War Park in

1861, 1877, 1889, 1905,





June 25, 1928  
(Dictated June 21)

Mr. Henry W. Raskin  
46 Spring Street  
Princeton, New Jersey

My dear Mr. Raskin:

I thank you very much for your letter of June 16th and the enclosed clipping regarding the railroad in Persia. I shall send it with some mission letter to our friends there. On my way home from Jerusalem I had with me as a fellow-passenger across the Mediterranean an American business man who was just returning from Persia where he had represented the American financial interests that were related to this railroad scheme. He said the work was already under way and he looked for its completion in a few years.

I was greatly interested in what you reported of your conversation with Dr. Penn with reference to Mr. Moody. I have not read yet Dr. Erdman's little book but shall do so, especially in view of your warm commendation of it.

You will have some reference to the Jerusalem Council in the General Assembly sermon which I sent to you at Swanton. Several articles appeared also in the last number of the Missionary Review of the World and I have written additional accounts for The Presbyterian, The Presbyterian Banner and the Presbyterian Magazine.

I am sending you the pamphlet entitled - "The World Mission of Christianity," containing messages and recommendations of the meeting. Full reports and the enlarged account of the Council will be published in due time and can be obtained from the office of the International Missionary Council, 419 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

Very cordially yours,

RWS/2

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JUL 2 1928  
SECRETARIES

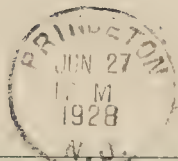
I shall send you sermon to Dr. Jenn.

The name of that <sup>W. R. Johnson</sup> Bishop of Iowa  
I do not recall in my last letter which  
concerns Leichtor is whose philosophy  
of spiritism & most evangelical  
of Widdows show a mind infused  
with the Greek & Roman philosophy  
of Plato & Aristotle. Yet their  
writings are not wholly scriptural.  
Those and English Scottish divines have devoted as much  
of it by heart & are never at all at loss for any passage  
they wish to use. They are great concordance  
workers & have been publ'd in their day. They carried the  
whole concordance in their minds - also of the classic authors  
Princeton, June 27, 1928  
H. W. R.

RECEIVED  
JUN 28 1928  
1928







THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mr Robt E. Speer  
~~Englewood~~  
~~W. J.~~  
~~156 S. 1st St.~~  
~~Phila. Pa.~~

A. W. Rankin  
Princeton N. J.  
46 Spring St

FILING DEPT

JUN 29 1928

346  
SECRETARIES

RECEIVED  
JUN 19 1928

June 16 1928

Dear Dr. Speer; You are most kind  
to write me so fully of the doctri-  
nal status here, & I am glad to get  
so much reassurance. I did not  
however suppose there was any im-  
portant difference of doctrine, or de-  
parture from my Presby. Confession among  
members of the Olney Faculty, as now  
constituted; & of Dr. Erdman & your-  
self I have certainly read too much  
to think either one of you a modernist.  
The question raised in my mind by  
recent articles in the papers was  
whether a reorganization of Seminary  
government would lead to some  
realignment in the Faculty rep-  
resenting a change of view.

I could not myself consent to every  
statement in the Presby. Confession, tho'  
I think its shortcomings are mostly by  
way of omission. But then I am  
an old man, & the liberty constitution-  
ally

allowed the Presbytery lazar is an asset  
of the Church to glory in. But the  
~~common~~<sup>present</sup> practice of subscribing to  
any creed the subscriber does not  
cordially accept is what I dread  
for the teaching elders of this church  
or any other. It would be con-  
tempible in a Russian Bolschevik,  
& it was certainly by this means  
the Sem. in St. Louis was ruined,  
yet its public defense in court was  
placed on the moral right to do this  
very thing. I hope the year's

delay of decision for the Sem. here  
may bring about peace, but if any  
small minority in the Faculty should  
abstract this I don't see why they  
should not voluntarily resign,  
whether their private views are  
right or wrong.

But for my  
state of health I w'd try to get from  
the opponents here their own views  
at first hand. I know Dallas

who is my classmate I have had  
some communication with him.  
I know Dr. Innes by much past cor-  
respondence; but he is out of it  
now & probably out of town, sooner  
than intrude on Macken or Haged  
or Groman. I will wait then?



apments.

I am greatly pleased with Edwards' bk on D.L.M. It is the best brief summary of the facts in his career, his character & doctrinal position yet published. Especially his interpretation of his doctrinal position is the most accurate & satisfactory I know.

The bk should correct some dubious points raised by Bradford, tho Bradford's few mis-understandings are almost lost in the large merits of his bk. Both bks should open

up a large new interest in D.L.M. & the bearing of his life on the Church & private life today. I have

written Eroman my appreciation & may see him. Tho I suppose

he soon leaves town, & I am likely to be here again for the summer.

I had interesting conversations in Swanton with Dr Fern, who teaches Theology in the Harvard Divinity Sch. As a boy he attended many of D.L.'s meetings at ~~Swanton~~ <sup>in Boston</sup> Temple in 1877

& was strongly attracted to the man. He was evidently pleased to hear more of D.L. from one long associated with him, & pleased to have some wrong impressions corrected. None of those might have been corrected had I read before his visit a review of

Bradford he wrote for the New England  
Quarterly, April 1884, & I can think the time  
has come for a dispassionate appraisal  
of his contribution to the religious life of all  
English speaking people. I asked him  
to send me his review of Bradford, as he  
did. With a letter showing great readi-  
ness to revise his own estimate. If you  
care to see them I will send you both.  
But here is a paragraph of important testi-  
mony: "One who was a frequent attend-  
ant upon his notes in the Boston Tabernacle  
may be permitted to testify that he never  
once witnessed any scene of frenzy or even  
excitement, there was no appeal to the passions  
of hell, no anxious seat or "no carnal couch."  
No flood of sentimental tears, no outcries  
- in fact, the great audiences were as deco-  
rous & orderly as any Sunday morning con-  
gregation in a conservative church,  
bloody himself, never trembled with emotion  
or screamed in passion, never for a single  
moment lost full control of himself & the  
situation. Mr Bradford has done real ser-  
vice in emphasizing these features of the Evan-  
gelists' work."

Mr Yenn took home with him & read my article  
in Lion's Herald on the 25 anniversary of  
D. S. death, with the other articles in that me-  
morial number of the paper. I sent you this  
at the time, but think you were out of the country  
& never got it. Now what he needs to do  
is to read Erasmian, & I shall try to have  
a copy sent him. I believe nothing of some  
of the things Montefiore would go so far as an Episcopalian  
Study of D. S. M. Please send me some acct of  
the occasion in Jerusalem. Cordially,  
D. W. Rankin



FILING DEPT.

JUN 15 1928

34-6  
SECRETARIES

June 8, 1928  
(Dictated June 2)

Mr. Henry W. Rankin,  
Swanton, Vermont.

My dear Mr. Rankin:

On returning from the General Assembly I was very glad to get your letter of May 25th with its account of the ordination of Mr. Pfeifer.

Happily I didn't meet at the General Assembly any of the "robbers" of whom you write who are bent on destroying the faith of the Church. I know that there has been a widespread agitation to produce the belief that there are such "robbers" but I do not know where they are.

So far as the Princeton situation is concerned I venture to enclose a copy of my letter to a good woman who has been greatly concerned and is, I believe, gravely lacerated. I shall venture also to send you under separate cover a copy of a sermon which I preached as retiring Moderator at the opening session of the General Assembly. If more than this can be said about our Lord than I have tried to say in this sermon, I don't know how it is to be done.

You will be interested to know that Dr. William P. Merrill, who is supposed by some to be one of the "robbers" of whom you write, writes in a letter which I found waiting when I got back as follows:

"I have just read your sermon before the Assembly, as reported in the ADVANCE. I can't help writing to say that it seems to me altogether right. I am with you all the way. I cannot find a word or a sentence which does not state and reflect my own attitude. Indeed, if I let my imagination run riot to the point of presenting me to myself as a retiring moderator of the General Assembly, I would pray God for grace to preach just such a sermon.

More and more I come to see and feel that, as Paul said, "Christ is all, and in all." What a wonder and glory it is that we can and do thus find in Him our religion. I am so glad you made use of that noble text about "the simplicity that is in (toward) Christ." It is a text that is with me all the time."

I trust that your health is a little better and that you may have a good and happy summer in Swanton.

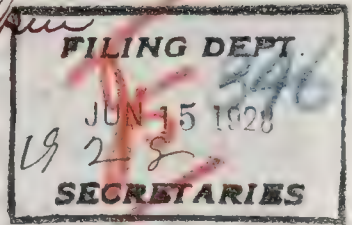
Very cordially yours,

RE/B



Henry W. Rankin

Lawton W  
May 25



My dear Dr Speer:

You are back, or soon will be, from your journey to Jerusalem, back to Jericho & the robbers of our faith, ready along the whole road to way lay us on the right hand & on the left. Some of these robbers you will face in the great Assembly where they move in gangs, where like meat & salt you will have to defend not yourself only, but the whole family of Christiana.

Altho I'm not a clergyman I had theology bred in the bone. If as a child I did not learn Scripture by heart, I learned it by ear, & learned by rote the whole shorter catechism verbatim before reaching the actual age of ten. Not until I was 25, & had all my own plans & earthly hopes knocked in the

lead by the faithful judgments of God  
that I might learn righteousness,  
& read Scripture for myself with-  
out prescription, to find out what  
was in it for myself, & apply its  
message to the conditions of a broken  
life — not until then did I slowly  
discover the organic unity & con-  
tinuity of that message with its  
healing power & light. Nothing  
less than painful affliction from  
the hand of a Sovereign Father ever  
led me to recognize the depth of his  
redeeming love, & hear the voice of  
him who turns man to destruction  
& treating us to "Return of children  
of men". For some years I passed  
this flood of doubt & temptation  
before me by one the leading truths  
of Xty stood out like stars in a  
gloomy night in self authenticating  
glory, & I feel the deepest sym-  
pathy with those who are struggling  
to reconcile, with some remains  
of faith, the whole world order of  
evangelical Xty with that of a  
fast changing modern thought.  
Modern theology is not based on

any true Word of God, or adequate  
experience of its power, but on  
the dissolving views of modern sci-  
ence, & the misgivings of a natu-  
rally alienated spirit. All the  
moral conditions of knowledge must  
be fulfilled before the moral ends  
of knowledge can be approximately  
gained. This, in fact, is the  
most enduring thesis of Francis  
Bacon's work, set forth in his  
imperishable doctrine of Idols  
so imperfectly applied to his own  
studies.

All our creeds & Confessions  
of faith are imperfect formula-  
tions of the ~~intended~~ truth intend-  
ed. All are open to revision  
& completion. They are working  
theories at best, & none should  
pretend that they possess any fi-  
nality that is absolute. But they  
are indispensable to our work as  
individuals & churches, & they do  
or should contain constitutional  
means for their own improvement.  
The Westminster Confession may  
be as imperfect as the Constitution



of the United States; and no man  
shd subscribe to either who  
does not mean to support it, un-  
der its own provision for ~~cor-~~  
rection & addition.

It apply for Presb, Arian & Agrecd, they  
do not, in this country, required  
to accept this whole confession; but  
can make for themselves such im-  
provements in it as they will, But  
the clergy must have a working  
platform, & those who do not like  
this platform are not only free, but  
bound to seek another.

But those who subscribe to this plat-  
form with mental reservations,  
which wd lead to its subversion  
or evasion regardless of its inter-  
al provision for amendment,  
are as dishonest as the foreign  
anarchist who enters America  
by swearing to support its constitu-  
tion while bent on its destruction.

Any change in the Seminary at Prince-  
ton that permits an evasion of its funda-  
mental creed, or admits the right of  
any teaching elder to subscribe to that  
instrument with mental reservation  
will work havoc in the whole Church  
& in that School, as the same attitude  
did in Sweden, & has elsewhere.

You will see in the enclosed  
 program that I have taken part  
 in the ordination of a recent gradu-  
 ate of Harvard Divinity, whose  
 sermon of ordination was deli-  
 vered by the Professor of Theol-  
 ogy of that School. He is a con-  
 servative Unitarian, an able schol-  
 ar & a lovable man, who at-  
 taches to himself his pupils with  
 much affection. Born & brought up  
 in Boston & its Latin School, in  
 wholly Unitarian connections, & at  
 Harvard, he is native to that faith,  
 open & honorable in his confession,  
 such a man as teacher & preacher  
 is far more honorable than  
 one can be who holds essen-  
 tially the same position under  
 protection of a banner with a  
 very different device.

The young man is not a Unitar-  
 ian, ~~but~~ & was brought up un-  
 der the fervent preaching of an  
 able, eloquent & devoted Metho-  
 dist pastor in Wisconsin,  
 So choice is this young man,

so beloved by both his early pastor  
& his theological teacher, that the  
former traveled a thousand miles  
to attend this event, & the latter  
in the most inconvenient time of year,  
& with the disordered conditions  
of travel in this state, came from  
Cambridge ~~to~~ on the urgent invi-  
tation of his recent pupil to  
add the blessing of his presence to  
the occasion.

The friends  
who in this town shelter me,  
& make a delightful home for me  
six months of each year, were  
hosts to the old Methodist pas-  
tor & the Unitarian teacher,  
where the beloved youth & I  
had the pleasure of witnessing  
their gracious encounters.

Altogether it was a rare occa-  
sion. But how came the boy to  
enter Harvard? He is an A. B. of  
The University of Wisconsin, &  
came east to attend the Moravian  
Seminary of Andover, only to  
witness its dissolution due to  
the blight of accepting a creed



with mental reservation, its dissolution, in the arms of another creed which had nothing to conceal.

As to the reorganization proposed for Princeton I have no adequate information. But no man given autocratic powers in that Faculty will ever be able to keep the peace. If Universities Presidents are no longer autocrats, but Chairmen of their Faculties, & Colleagues of their Trustees, why should any man be made an overlord to that Staff of splendid Scholars & devoted men, if not for the very purpose of admitting decisive elements into that school that will weaken all its future work? A thousand times

better a united Faculty on the old lines than a divided Faculty on new lines; - Even if the old lines can be bettered they will not be bettered in this way.

If the Assembly puts Dr. Stevenson or anybody else in complete control of local policy, I leave the

Very cordially Yrs. - Henry W. Rankin

Professors with no equal voice in the decisions reached, the Faculty will be split from top to bottom. & strange it would be if the best men in it ~~would~~ do not leave it at any cost - to their own fortunes. This <sup>would</sup> be Northfd over again. One autocrat in Northfd with local policy in his sole control came within an ace of wrecking that great work of F. L. Moody; & the end is not yet. Unless the great wrong there committed is redressed in the most honorable way, & until redress is made, dark Nemesis overshadows the Northfd Schools & all the Summer enterprise of that place. I will not suffer that great injustice to go unjudged. The chief offender lies already under judgment only spared for opportunity to repent - spared perhaps only for his father's sake. But the whole work must suffer insidious results from the wrong effected, however little apparent at the first. Why do not you & your son & other Guardians of that enterprise give Mr. Dickerson the chance to answer fully for himself the accusations made behind his back?

Greatest Window in the  
 U.S. Designed & made by  
 Wm Willet, Philadelphia  
 who alone of modern artists  
 has reproduced the quality of  
 the 13<sup>th</sup> Century Glazes in Princeton  
 the West Point Military Academy  
 many places. That his work is  
 as the highest reached in modern  
 window work has been ac-  
 knowledged by the most competent  
 judges in the land.

THIS SPACE FOR ADDRESS.

Dr. Wood of American Art  
 T. CARD  
 No. 100

The Liberty Bell Co., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Wm Willet was the first English mason of New York. He was a Presbyterian minister, deeply read in Scripture, from which source he drew his best inspiration. So convinced was he that the Scriptures should be wholly accepted as a valid testimony in the sense intended by its writers, that the imitations by modern artists of his own well guarded Church glazes shed his grief & defense as to short in his life; & in Princeton he was buried under the inscription that he counted not his life dear unto him so that he might testify of the Gospel of the grace of God. (A. W. R.)

THIS SPACE FOR MESSAGE

PUBLISHED BY H. W. HANCOCK STATIONER, PRINCETON, N. J.





Proctor Memorial Hall, Graduate College,  
Princeton University.

FILING DEPT.  
MAR 8 1928  
346  
SECRETARIES

February 27, 1928  
dictated 24th.

Mr. Henry W. Rankin,  
Swanton,  
Vermont.

My dear Mr. Rankin,

Your kind letter and postal card have been received. I am just clearing up last things before leaving for a two months' absence to attend the International Missionary Council meeting in Jerusalem and some conferences with our Syria Mission and shall not be back until the first part of May. I am taking the letter and card and enclosed clipping along and shall read them on the steamer..

I trust that you are well and that you may have good health all through the spring and summer.

With kind regards,

Very sincerely yours,

W.H.C.

Pascal said: who knows not Christ knows not  
the order of the world - knows not himself

conditions that are not the necessitated  
product of natural antecedents. The  
result of this religious modernism when  
fully produced, is plainly indicated  
in Bradford's On Darwin - Chapter  
On Darwin the Destroyer. My own

conviction is, after following up for  
60 years the line of contact between  
Scripture & Science, that this so-  
called modern view of the world  
will soon be on the scrap heap;  
& the Scriptural belt as having  
been inadequately interpreted will  
be indicated perfectly, & support-  
ed by the resurrected Sciences.

There is but one world-view in the  
whole Bible, which is assumed,  
enriched & exemplified by Christ.

He can never be reduced to terms  
of modern Science, but Science will  
be redeemed to agree with Christ.

In a logically inconsistent way the  
modern world view is held by many  
who think they accept the New Testament  
Christ; tho' that view & its corollaries  
reduce Xty to bare theism & ethics -  
very bare, & know nothing of the Gospel of

divine intervention - which is not an inter-  
ference with the order, but an integral part  
of it - as Bishop Butler showed 192 years ago.  
contrarily yrs - Henry W. Rankin



No. 26 East 37th Street  
New York

January 14, 1928

To the Elder Phillipians:

The Sesquicentennial of Phillips Academy will be celebrated at Andover on May 18 and 19, 1928. The records of the Academy indicate that there are now living 375 men who were at school at Andover during the period in which Dr. Samuel Harvey Taylor was the Principal. This letter is addressed to each of them.

The boys of today are no doubt the same or better, but the School itself has grown beyond any imagination of those early days.

No other school compares with Phillips Academy in completeness of the plant. It has now become essential that the salaries of the teachers connected with this great establishment should be made secure and suitable. At present they are not. To this end it is determined that there shall be ten so-called foundations of \$160,000 each, the income of each foundation to provide an adequate salary for a teacher in the Academy. The staff in this school and other schools and colleges has too long been underpaid. A school where teachers are underpaid can not remain long in the first rank.

Of the ten foundations, six are already secured. This letter is written to ask help in securing the Samuel Harvey Taylor Foundation, one of the ten. Of the \$160,000 required for the Taylor Foundation, \$123,000 has been pledged, which leaves \$37,000 to be raised.

Will you not help, and send a subscription, large or small, the larger the better, to Mr. James C. Sawyer, Treasurer, Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass., marking it for the Samuel Harvey Taylor Foundation? Your subscription, whatever it may be, will help the old school and further preserve in this happy fashion the memory of "Uncle Sam", a great Schoolmaster.

Francis R. Appleton, '71  
John A. Garver, '71  
Henry S. Van Duzer, '71

Committee

Swanton Vt. <sup>Henry W. [unclear]</sup> [unclear] 5

My dear Mr. [unclear] - Perhaps this letter from it <sup>to</sup> ~~you~~ may not reach you among other publications, but will interest you for its bearing on Northfield. My obligations to Dr. Samuel & Taylor & the Academy are greater than I ever can repay. My love for Andover never fails. But in my broken fortunes, strength & means have failed, so that I can no longer cooperate for the welfare either of Andover or Northfield as I most gladly would.

I wd like to see the Northfield Schools placed on the same basis as was proposed for Andover; tho I can not forget Dr. Lumsden's conviction, often expressed, that if the schools wd be fully endowed they wd cease to live by faith.

My chief misgiving for the future of Northfield is ~~that~~ the Bible teaching there, Summer & winter, be reconstructed on the popular modern sense of a naturalistic universe; in which God, if there be a God, never did & never will initiate any new



FILING DEPT  
JAN 20 1944  
SECRET A. J. S.

Mr. Harry W. Rankin,  
46 Spring St.,  
Princeton, N.J.

My dear Mr. Rankin,

I am very much obliged for your letter of January 17th which I am sending on to my son, Elliott.

I am sending, under separate cover, two copies of the General Assembly to which you refer.

I trust you are having a good winter, and that you are able to do the reading and the writing that are on your heart and that make the days rich.

With kind regard,

Very cordially yours,



246  
Second Floor

January 10, 1929  
Dictated Jan. 9, 1929

Mr. Henry W. Rankin,  
Princeton,  
New Jersey

My dear Mr. Rankin:

I am very much obliged for your kind thoughtfulness in sending me the newspaper clippings, some marked for me and some for my son Elliott. The latter I am sending on to him at Northfield.

I trust that you are having a good winter in Princeton. I fear most all the friends of older days are gone now from the Community and from the College and Seminary.

I am taking the liberty of sending you under separate cover a copy of a little book entitled "Are Foreign Missions Done For?" which is simply a straightforward attempt to deal with some of the contemporary criticisms and misunderstandings of Missions.

Very cordially yours,

RES:FB

**CROSS REFERENCE SHEET**

**FILE No.** 346

**SUBJECT** Mr. Rankin's article on C. W. Shields  
in Princeton Alumni Weekly

**SEE**

**FILE No.** 228

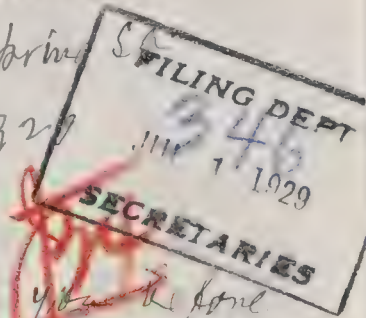
**LETTER TO** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATED** \_\_\_\_\_

**LETTER FROM** H. W. Rankin **DATED** 5/22/29

Henry W Rautiw

Princeton N.J. 46 Spring St

June 7. 1929



My dear Dr Spear;

This may not reach you before  
~~you have~~ start for Northford —  
so I shall send it there.

I wish only to assure you of the  
of my prayer sympathy in the  
"painful exigency" which has arisen in  
that place of so much former peace.  
Oh, for a dog of Dilke once  
again! Many of my scattered  
friends will be back at this Com-  
mencement whom I wd love to  
meet again, & likely enough for the  
last time. But I am still an exile  
from that loved place, thro' poverty,  
sickness & the reprobation of W. R. R.,  
— who, as I have no fear of him, is  
afraid of facing me, because I know  
him too well. On our last two inter-  
views, when he had learned from Mr  
Bulley of my protest, I faced the



most infuriated man I ever encountered  
in my life, but faced him down; since  
I had nothing to retract, & nothing but  
the truth to tell, with in one first hand  
evidence than he could ever bear or dare  
to listen too. Later in the summer he  
sent me two scurrilous notes, in which  
he boasted that my effort to overthrow  
his authority had totally failed. Only a  
few days after the second note he was on  
his back with a dangerous illness.  
Every vestige of his long abused author-  
ity was stripped from him by a higher  
hand than mine. & what the knaves  
did a few months later only ratified an  
act of God. He then intimated to  
me that I wd have to leave town,  
& if he shd see me there this summer  
it wd throw him into a fit of rage, &  
perhaps a relapse of his illness that wd  
be fatal. I have no wish to increase  
his misery, & shall not come - even  
if I could; but nobody loves Northy  
better than I do, & some day I may  
be spared to return there. But whether  
there or abroad I shall stand by your  
son, in his new, courageous enterprise  
to build up that splendid planting of the

founder on his own ground, for his own  
high ends. Elliot is fast winning a strong  
hold upon the schools & the whole commu-  
nity, & deserves & will soon have the  
support of ~~the~~ all that is best worth  
having in the old & new constituency  
of the schools.

You know that my major interest in  
study is the definition & maintenance  
of a truly Christian Philosophy, in which  
the data of Evangelical Christianity  
shall have full recognition & logical  
co-ordination with all properly attested  
data wherever found in every branch  
of learning. My master in philosophy  
is Shields, whom I regard as an un-  
used asset of the first importance.  
If you ever get time to read the Princeton  
Alumni Weekly, you may have seen  
in the number for April 26, a Brief  
Estimate of Shields, in which I try to con-  
dense the statement of his values for the  
great exigency of modern thought, the  
result indicated in the last part of this  
statement expresses the central ground  
on which I believe all adequate philosophy  
will yet unite, & ground <sup>on which</sup> the whole  
superstition of Xty must yet unite, & ground  
on which all the Bible teaching of North

ought to rest. I wrote the sketch some years ago, but it was never published until recently when President Wilson happened to read it in a copy left by him in the Library. He secured its use in the Atlantic Weekly.

I sent the weekly to Dr Geo A. Gordon of Boston - who is a Modernist at his best, & versed in Plato & Aristotle far beyond most teachers in philo.

This morning, to my great surprise, I rec'd from him a valuable letter, showing a readiness even on his part to consider the ~~con~~ premises & conclusions of a man like Shields - so opposed to his own habitual views. If the Lord God wd for even five years restore my health, as he did the health of Hezekiah, & of many far less deserving men than that good King, I might hope to complete some long belated work in this matter that I am sure somebody ought to do, in order to strengthen the hands of the brethren in these distracted days before the coming of our Lord to straighten out this crooked world.

I think the Trustees sh'd see to it that no public meeting is held of W.R.U. - with the Annual in which some of their numbers are not visibly present. The Lord stand by you, to overcome all hurtful acts & plans.

Cordially yours  
Henry W Rankin



June 27, 1929  
Dictated June 24, 1929



Rev. Henry W. Rankin  
46 Spring Street  
Princeton, N. J.

My dear Mr. Rankin:

I am very much obliged for your letter and for the clipping from the Princeton Alumni weekly containing your article on Dr. Shields's philosophy which I have read with great interest. I confess, however, that I have never had the same estimate of Dr. Shields which you have had. Perhaps this is due to the fact that I took his courses when I was in college and at that time he represented less power and grasp than when you knew him. I am afraid it will be very hard to call him back again into the thought of present-day students of philosophy.

I wish you had time to do the work that you say you would like to do. Perhaps in that case you and Dr. George Gordon could bring Dr. Shields up toward the place that you believe he should fill.

I was at the Northfield Commencement for a day and everything went very happily, as I think it did throughout considering all the circumstances. The storm which your correspondence had anticipated, happily, did not break and I trust that it may not break in the future. Things are not as happy, doubtless, as they ought to be. One must continue to hope and pray that the true tradition of Dwight L. Moody and his fine spirit may prevail.

With kind regard,

Very sincerely yours,

RES/d

Henry W. Rankin

RECEIVED

JUL 5 - 1929

Mr. Speer

Princeton NJ

46 Spring St

July 1, 1929

FILED IN 1.  
JUL 25 1929  
SECRETARIES

~~Amos~~

My dear Mr. Speer,

Your stenographer addresses me as Rev. Please tell her I am an untitled layman, & would abolish that particular title for every body if I could.

It is part of our heritage from the Church of Rome.

Shields was never a good classroom instructor. He was too easy with the boys, & did not make them work. That grievously affected his reputation among them as a man I think. I am fairly ~~fairly~~ familiar with the history of Princeton institutions & the out-  
put of their men; also with the

Literatures of American Philosophy from  
Jonathan Edwards & Samuel Johnson  
to Barne & Ladd, James & Royce,  
& Wm L. Gairns, who, more than any  
one else, introduced Greek & German  
Philosophy to American students. All  
the last ten years of his life I was  
in correspondence with Shields, &  
all the last fifteen years of his life  
with Wm James - as you may judge from  
the Preface to his Gifford Lectures, & his  
publ<sup>d</sup> Letters. I wanted to know exactly  
what those men were driving at; & in  
one letter to one of James in the vol<sup>s</sup> ed-  
ited by his son, you will find what  
I think is perhaps the best statement  
he made any where of his conception  
of the realm of religion. By a round-  
about road James was headed toward  
Christ - tho he never learned the short  
cut. Religion was always uppermost  
or deepest of all his interests; & once  
when asked what was the main object  
ive of all his studies, he answered  
To find a balm for man.



I have read 6 or 700  
views of Shields

Very few of Shields' pupils or colleagues  
or theological associates ever took pains  
to learn what his real objective was.  
The only review he ever had from a  
Princeton pen was written by Dr Patton  
for ~~the~~ the journal then edited by Libbey.  
Patton was then a brilliant young prof  
of Polemic Theology, whose paper while  
recognizing incidental values in the  
1st vol of Shields' treatise - as nearly all  
his reviewers did - totally failed to  
grasp its real purport & significance  
that was in 1877 - when the Nineteenth  
Century has begun to attack everything  
in old theology in fear of Darwin,  
Spencer, Huxley, Lyndall & Haeckel.  
Dr Patton subsequently reached a view  
of the real bearing of all this on theology  
essentially identical with that of Shields  
which is indicated in the last part of my Brief  
Estimate. But that early review greatly  
injured the fair reception & considera-  
tion of Shields Vol I in Princeton -  
which nevertheless went into three editions  
to be revised & strengthened when Vol II  
came out in 1889 - was that of College  
year? Not a single Princeton pen was  
ever lifted to appraise that second

vol. in which the backbone & center  
of his treatise is to be found - a vol-  
ume that elicited some notable re-  
views & exceedingly high appreciation  
elsewhere in this country & in Europe.  
- a volume that I regard as the great-  
est masterpiece of philosophy ever pro-  
duced by an American author.

As a lecturer on history, preceding  
Wm. D. Sloane, who edited Shields' memoir  
for his vol III, so great was the com-  
petence & eloquence of Shields, that people  
came from all the surrounding country  
to hear him - as Sloane tells us. But  
several circumstances hindered the  
serious attempt to discover Shields' in-  
estimable worth for the grievous exigencies of  
modern thought. His two first vols appeared  
at an interval of 12 yrs apart, while  
the third is a posthumous fragment - not at  
all in the shape he meant to leave it.  
The time between 1877 & 1889 was a period of  
the most rapid & radical change in ac-  
ademic thinking of any period since the 16<sup>th</sup>  
Century. The Darwinian era had replaced  
the Christian era in so many minds that  
the young blades in Coleridge's chains were too  
fast for Shields in their heady flights, &  
the theological faculty was <sup>that</sup> too slow for him.  
He fell between these parties unrecognized  
by either one.



yet warfield & Green came to have later a very high regard for Shields' work, & were highly pleased with the estimates I published in the Theol. Review of Jan 1915, July 1915 & April 1916.

However poor an impression Shields made in daily class work, I believe he had the most comprehensive mind of any man who ever taught in this place, & of any man save Hegel who wrote philosophy in the last century. These men <sup>covered</sup> much the same ground by very different methods, & Shields' method is far the best. He belongs with the magnates of all time in this high domain; & if in 1889 his second vol had been taken seriously in our colleges & theological seminaries, they wd show today a degree of mutual understanding & coöperation beyond anything the last century displayed.

I think Shields will yet come to his own among Christian scholars; & it will not be the first time in literature or philosophy that a man has waited a whole generation, or even a century, to have his preeminent value discovered.



A federation of all the sciences is  
and truly Christian philosophy, & a  
federation of all the churches in one  
Church of Christ made the two fold  
~~for~~ ideals & pursuit of his long  
life: but the persistent apathy of his  
own college & Sem. are chiefly  
to blame for the lassitude of his  
later years & the unfinished condition  
of his work.

His main treatise is not an affirma-  
tive system of ethics, ontology, theory  
of religion, or even of cosmology,  
It is not a system of philosophy,  
but an organon of research - far the  
best ever made; in which the literary,  
rational & moral qualities are of  
great distinction & commensurate.

No man can read much in him &  
not feel the literary & aesthetic prop-  
erties of his writing as far above common.  
No man can read his treatise to the  
end & not recognize the rare mag-  
nanimity with which he approaches  
all dissidents & opponents - exemplify-  
ing at its best his own doctrine of

philosophical Umpirage, & Bacon's doctrine  
of idols. No man could ever master  
his work, & not find a master mind  
in its author, with a horizon of thought  
& a spiritual vision, unequalled in  
the entire literature of philosophy.

Philosophia ultima is not his professed  
attainment but his goal. He shows better  
than any predecessor the ideal to which  
philosophy must press forward to interpret  
the phenomenal order of the world in ~~terms~~  
adequate terms of its essential implications.  
The phenomenal order includes all levels  
of human experience from lowest physi-  
cal to highest religious, & these levels  
must all be brought into a rational  
coördination from which no fact is  
excluded, & in which all representative  
facts are recognized - The most repre-  
sentative fact in all human experience  
is Christ, who for the apostles John &  
Paul is the key to the whole world-order;  
Pascal says: "Who knows not Christ,  
knows not the order of the world, knows  
not himself." Hegel is almost alone  
in his recognition of the significance of  
Christ for philosophy - & men have traver-  
sed & ridiculed Hegel as they do Shields.  
Coleridge tells us in the Friend that  
the problem of philosophy according to



Plato is for all that exists conditionally  
to find a ground unconditioned & absolute.  
This is the main problem to which all else is  
incidental. This statement quoted, with-  
out its source, in Emerson's first book, is  
accepted by him as the central problem  
about which all that he ever wrote re-  
balances, & to which all his prose & verse give  
some expression. It is the problem of  
Aristotle's *Philosophia Prima*, & also of  
Shields' *Philosophia Ultima* - so called  
because what is first in the order of Being  
is last in the order of adequate philosophic  
knowing. Yet some silly scoffers have  
read the title page, & said: Here comes a  
man who expects to say the last word in  
ontology. His treatise is a pro-paedeutic  
to philosophy, & its main emphasis is on  
the previous question of philosophy, or what  
is the actual world-order given in hu-  
man experience from which we may  
rationally infer, as its necessary presup-  
position, & logical antecedent, the true  
character of the world-ground, or of absolute  
Being? All discussion of that problem was  
carried in our colleges when Shields be-  
gan to write; for they were under the spell of  
Hamilton & Deussen, whom Shields resound-  
ed of the very first to refute. Absolute Being is  
not all that is, but all Being that exists of it-  
self - all else is conditioned. Coleridge pointed  
out an hundred years ago in his *Bio. Lit.* that in  
*Epodus 3: 14* Absolute Being is revealed as the only self-  
consistent Being & the first postulate of Philosophy.



3

The only point disparaged by the 4 posters  
Paul is that which is not after Christ,  
& no Philo was ever projected more  
in keeping with Christ than that of Shields  
He is an unused asset of the first im-  
portance to the intellectual & moral chaos  
of our day. Here often the best things  
are ignored! I have heard many men  
speak lightly of Shields, but not a single  
one who had taken pains to understand  
him. The two big volumes that have  
frightened off so many readers I have  
read six times through, & read gladly read  
six times more - the such close reading  
of course discovers defects - no more  
& no worse than we find in Plato,  
Aristotle, Leibnitz, Bacon, Locke &  
Kant & Hegel.

The Introductory Section of Shields Vol I  
is only suited to its original purpose as  
the inaugural address on assuming his  
Chair. It is somewhat misleading &  
disconcerting as an introduction to the treat-  
ise. I persuaded him to re-write it,  
but this with much more material for  
a last edn is unpublished. I had ad-  
vised a beginner in Shields to read first  
the chapter on Bishop Butler in Vol III  
& then master the first 127 pages of Vol II

before undertaking a consecutive study  
of the whole work. If my Maker wd  
do for me what he did for Hegel, &  
& give me fifteen, or ten, or even five  
years of health, I wd endeavor to  
publish such an appraisal & appli-  
cation of Shields for our latest hour  
needs as wd prove beyond any  
scruples or informed dispute his im-  
mense importance to the immediate sit-  
uation in the academic mind.

Shields - whose first inspiration came  
from Bacon & Butler, & then inciden-  
tally from Comte & Kant, has given  
us another *Novum Organum Scientiarum*  
suited to our own day; while his total  
enterprise constitutes another *Clas-  
sificatio Instauratio Magna*, &  
a *Summa Summarum Scientiarum*  
excelled & equalled by none.

It is highly approved in that volume  
publ'd by James Lindsay about 1917 on  
*Heistic Ideals*, & in a volume just  
out on *The Organization of Knowledge  
& System of the Sciences* by Henry Eledge  
Bliss, Librarian of the College of the City  
of New York, Henry Holt & Co. - And yet  
this author had not read, I think, Shields'



treatise, but only his early monograph on  
the Order of the Sciences. Any man who  
wishes to organize his own collection  
of facts, & see its ~~real~~ logical relation  
to the whole cosmic system he'd do well  
to study Shields, whose chair should  
have been styled - not Chair of the  
Harmony of Science & Religion, but  
Chair of the Unity of Science - such  
as ought to exist in every college, &  
would if I had the money to spend on it.  
My Brief Estimate was written ten years or  
more ago. I sent a copy to Lansing  
Collins, asking him to get it in the Alumni  
weekly if he could. But this was not  
done until Pres Hibben saw the ms in the  
Library, & immediately requested its pub-  
lication. It is an irreducible mini-  
mum of what ought to be said about  
Shields. Shakespeare was popular  
in his lifetime, & then ignored for an  
hundred years. Bacon impacted  
an immediate stimulus to the advance-  
ment of knowledge, & then for an  
hundred yrs was subjected to all  
kinds of cynical misunderstanding.  
Spinoza waited for Lessing many years  
to be made known to Europe, while



Will Durant, with no philosophy of his own, but a sparkling wit in discursing of others, becomes a best seller.

But that fact is enough to show that philosophy has a powerful appeal to ordinary minds, when written in a light attractive way, especially appealing to the sceptical mind of our time.

There are more profound & quotable sentences scattered thro Shields' three volumes than in all that Durant ~~has~~ or Dewey <sup>ever</sup> has written.

Princeton now has a two million dollar Chapel for the delivery of tea cent sermons, in which Christianity is reduced, at best, to bare theism & ethics of the second table - very bare at that. The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ gets little or no chance in this echoing & imposing auditorium - It has often been preached better in a barn or in the woods. But Jews & Catholics, Agnostics & Atheists are so plentiful here, that only such preaching seems safe as will give no offense to that element for whom the Dodge statue has always been like a red rag to a bull. But I believe the whole of Christianity hangs between two capital events that demand each other, to which all else is incidental, viz, the Creation of man in the image of God & Incarnation of God in the image of man - both events being here taboo. I am grateful to the outcome of Comenian

Henry W. Parkin  
Chapel 40 was  
Northfield

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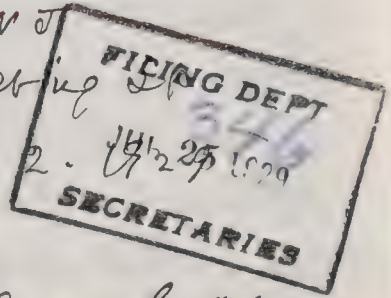
Mr. Speer

Henry W. Rankin

Princeton N.J.

46 Spring St.

July 2



My dear Dr. Speer -

There is important news from China that you have doubtless seen.

When writing you yesterday about Shields I had on the table a letter from Prof. Brightman of Boston University that I can't find; I think

that possibly it got into the envelope that I addressed to you. But if you did not see it never mind.

While I think of it, I will add a little more to what I said of Shields. Give a dog a bad

name, & you may as well shoot him. It was quite natural & not inexcusable that

the pupils of Shields would commonly judge him only by his work in the classroom, & disregard his published writings.



But that his colleagues on the Faculty -  
of associates in the Seminary, sh<sup>d</sup>  
take no pains to understand the life  
work of a man they all very highly  
respected for his learning & his charac-  
ter, this was wholly inexcusable.

If any one man on the Faculty had  
appreciated the good work of Shields,  
& given expression to that interest  
I have failed to learn. Certainly  
no important review except that  
of Dr Patton appeared from any Prince-  
ton pen, or Shields wd have known  
it. But he knew of none. Patton's  
review is the only one ~~he~~ Shields ever  
answered in print. His answer  
was published in the next number of  
that Princeton journal edited by  
Libbey which contained the review,  
The answer was so courteous, so  
cogent & so complete that I think  
Dr Patton must have felt rather  
small on reading it.

Dr Shields appreciated the work of  
every man Princeton scholar better  
than any one of them appreciated his



work, & yet his work concerned the ~~the~~ intellectual welfare of every one of these men more than their work could be said to have so wide an application. Not only is his treatise on Philosophy, & also that written on Church Union, a model to the whole academic world of magnanimity & comprehensive understanding in dealing with other men of the most contrary views, but this fact has been clearly recognized by many of his own reviewers outside of Princeton. Sceptics, like Paul Cævus, Roman Catholics, Unitarians, & leaders in other Protestant denominations, have given cordial testimony to this very exceptional moral quality of all his work. And <sup>not</sup> only this,

but Shields was for many years the man selected by the college faculty to prepare the obituaries & estimates written of his colleagues who died or moved elsewhere, because every one of them knew that no man among them was more certain than he was to handle all such instances with

justice & intelligent appreciation.

Yet not one man of them made a serious attempt to understand him. Even those whose own views of the normal relation between Christian theology & other fields of learning were substantially identical with his, tho' far less well defined, would not spend the time to learn from him the best statement of this great, engrossing problem ever made between the 2<sup>d</sup> century & the 19<sup>th</sup> - McCosh, McCloskie, & Patton himself - in the end, if not at first, held essentially to Shields' own position, & all of them wd have been greatly fortified & helped in defining their own ground by a thorough study of Shields of which I find no evidence. Exactly this was the case with Ladd of Yale & Bourne of Boston, both of whom wrote me that their examination of Shields was very hasty, & certainly with no effect. McCloskie told me that when Shields vol 7 came out he read it once thro, & finding some technical deficiencies in points of science, he paid no further attention to the book, &

never looked into <sup>2</sup> vol II. I remind-  
ed him that Francis Bacon knew nothing  
of modern science, & didn't even know  
some of the best work done in his own  
time, besides grossly misinterpreting  
Aristotle. Nevertheless, Bacon expressed  
an ideal of what science ought to ac-  
complish, & of the method indispensa-  
ble to adequate results; & had a compre-  
hensive vision of the whole of human  
learning, beyond that of any contempo-  
rary, & of most who have come since.  
And with this vision & great power of  
expression, Bacon, was the real founder  
of the Royal Society, began after his death,  
& profoundly stimulated in the pursuit of  
science & philosophy many of the best  
minds who came later - such as Leibnitz,  
& Abbe & Locke. In fact ~~that~~ had there been  
no Bacon, Locke, Berkeley & Hume, there  
would have been no Kant, Fichte, Schelling  
& Hegel, no French Encyclopedia, no  
Comte; no ~~Scottish~~ school of psychology  
with McCosh for its last & largest man;  
no corresponding development in  
France led by Maim de Biran & by  
Cuvier - back to a spiritual concep-  
tion of the world from the overemphasis  
of the five senses.



No man is more worthy to be named  
with all of these men than is Shields.  
Who gathered up all their results in  
in a new projection of philosophy & science  
in which the ulterior purpose of these  
pursuits has more advanced & just &  
practical & adequate expression than  
has been ~~expressed~~<sup>put</sup> in print by any  
man who ever lived. If this is the  
man whom his colleagues & pupils  
& contemporaries have almost ignored  
— just as Will Moody has ignored  
the justice due to Paul, & all the  
Dickensons, myself & your son Elliot;  
not however, in the case of Shields, by  
reason of ill will & overemphasis  
of their own importance; but the  
culpable inattention where it was due,  
"Truth is a staff rejected", & Shields is  
an unused asset of the very first im-  
portance to the grievous exigencies of the  
modern mind. Shields has not  
been weighed in a just balance, &  
found wanting. He has simply been  
ignored — save by a dozen early  
reviewers — who without fully learning  
his value from one reading, yet saw  
in him a master mind handling the

greatest of all problems in a manner to deserve & reward the closest attention. The best American understanding of Shields was expressed by Geo Ripley of the N. Y. Tribune - who at that time had more learning in philosophy & more equipment in the modern literature of Europe, than any but half a dozen other men in this country. Ripley saw only Shields Vol I, & notwithstanding the wide divergence in theology between himself & Shields, his appreciation of Shields' ~~his~~ erudition, moral elevation, philosophical acumen, & central aim was far greater & more intelligent than that of Francis L. Patton at that time - who never subsequently made any amends to Shields, for the injury done him by that early & mis conceived review. I say this, yielding to no man in my admiration of Patton's own qualities & service. The pity of it is that McCosh & McCloskie & Paton never held a position (unless Patton in his early years) that was not essentially congruous with that of Shields; tho none of them ever gave that position so well defined & serviceable expression as Shields has done.

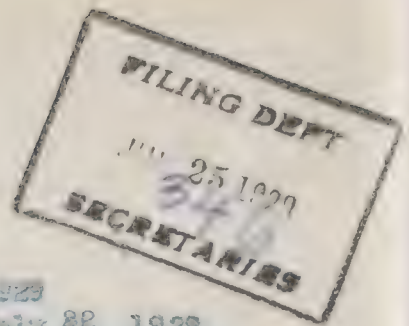


In 1888 Shields #1 was issued in a third  
revised edn. & in 1889 came Vol II  
At that time three of the best reviews were  
pubd in Boston in the Congregationalist, the Chris-  
tian Register & the Beacon which had handled  
Vol I the year before. The two reviews of the  
Boston Beacon, & that of Geo Ripley in the Tribune  
are perhaps the best of 60 or 70 that I have  
read, & ought to have made some men  
in Princeton ashamed of their own neglect.

Our debts are often worse than our  
transgressions. The things we ought  
to do & don't do will often score  
against us more heavily in the last  
assize than our actual infractions of  
that Law of Liberty we are all free  
to heed or disregard at will - notwith-  
standing the fact that it is a categorical  
imperative.

A card just recd from Mr Dickerson  
announces his arrival in New York on  
Thurs ~~day~~ June 25<sup>th</sup> after a long & happy trip<sup>er</sup>  
They go to Maine via Worcester. Soon after the  
1<sup>st</sup> of return via Northfield the last of  
September. At that time I trust he will  
be met by Elliot, & the way soon opened for  
his resumption of personal relations with that  
place ~~whom~~ whose best interests he served for  
35 years with an ability, fidelity & fruit none  
but the Founder ever surpassed, & few have equalled  
until full justice is done to our Dickerson & his  
vice to my great teacher Shields I cannot die satis-  
fied save that I believe in God to avenge his own  
elect. Cordially yours  
Henry W. Rankin





July 24, 1929  
Dictated July 22, 1929

Mr. Henry A. Rankin  
46 Spring Street  
Princeton, N. J.

My dear Mr. Rankin:

I have been away at some missionary conferences or should have written before this to thank you for your letters of July 1st and 2nd with regard to Mr. Shields.

I wish with you that the old evangelical note could be brought back clear and strong in the university and its life and work. The last time I was down at a meeting of the seminary directors I went over to see the status of the Christian student. It had been taken into the library, I believe, but the overturned pedestal was there with its sad significance.

With kind regard,

Very cordially yours,

WAS/a

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Princeton N.J.

46 Spring

July 30.

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Mr. Speer

my dear Dr. ~~Speer~~ Speer

If you can bear with me once more in speaking of Shields, I wd like to add something to what I have said. I wd do this because I have not the least doubt that if you had time to read his treatise three times - thrice with close attention you wd find it, as I do, an unused asset of the first importance to the painful epiphanies of modern thought. You'd use it to great advantage on many occasions of public address, or of writing for the press. But before showing how that may be, let me put this question - ad hominem: If we shd be judged by God or man only by the things in wh' we have failed, & never by the things in wh' we have succeeded, wd we not properly resent it as an injustice, tho the judgement came from God himself? But this is the way in wh' Shields has been judged by the greater number of his pupils, & to some extent doubtless by his colleagues. Certainly his colleagues, as well as his pupils generally, prejudged his values with no adequate attention to what they might possibly be; & tho these inadequacies are excusable in many cases for such a prejudice

The colleagues & associates of Shields, in learning & teaching were inexcusable. Their heedless neglect, is chiefly chargeable with the public neglect that has befallen a man whose published work was exceptionally well adapted to the time in which it was prepared, & might have greatly aided in composing the differences & conflicts & tremendous misunderstandings that have afflicted the last seventy years. That conflict I have followed closely ever since my college days, & that treatise I have taken pains to understand. I have found it richly rewarding in the measure of attention; & the two first vols whose size & title have frightened off many readers I have read six times thro' & wd gladly read six times more; tho' such close attention makes its faults & deficiencies quite plain. It was said of vol I. by Saul Harris, of Yale, who wrote the Philosophical Basis of Theism & the Self-Revelation of God, that no other man in this country could have written it. A Boston reviewer of vol I in its 3d edn, which appeared in '88 when you were a college junior, that a incidentally the student gets a complete classification of all knowledge -- The work as a whole is a wonder of patient acumen & catholic comprehensiveness, & might be taken by theologians, men of science & even metaphysicians, for a joint base & starting point. The vol. is peculiar in our literature, & deserves once more that, in the last resort, religious science,



history & metaphysics are necessarily so!  
i. e. inseparable from each other in any  
cosmic synthesis of knowledge, such as should  
reflect the unity of the world & of its ground.  
To make the treatise a joint base & starting  
point of research for the theologians, metaphysicians  
& men of science, is exactly what  
the author meant it to be; not a closed  
system of phil., but a propaedeutic, an  
organon of research that wd for both  
to exemplify the unity of knowledge; a unity  
in wh<sup>ch</sup> the knowledge represented in Chris-  
tian theology is shown in rational coor-  
dination with all other knowledge, as, if it  
be a science at all, it must be; as it  
self a valid science, sharing with every  
historical, observational & empirical  
science a common ground in well at-  
tested experience, a common method of  
induction made as exhaustive as possible,  
& a common source of imperfection  
in the 'infirmities of human nature' that touch  
all science faculty - tho it be science.

Dr Hammond said "No class of works is  
recc<sup>d</sup> with more suspicion, I had almost  
said derision, than those wh<sup>ch</sup> deal with  
science & religion". Nevertheless "As the  
highest of the sciences, theology, in the order  
of evolution, shd be the last to fall into rank.  
It is reserved for it to perfect the final  
harmony". This is precisely what Shiller  
had shown, not only six yrs earlier in  
his vol F, but sixteen yrs earlier in  
his first projection of the treatise in 1861.  
of this first vol. wh went into three ed's

There was better appreciation shown by these  
Boston reviewers, & by Geo Ripley of New York,  
than was shown by any one in Princeton,  
- even by Dr F. L. Patton, whose review did  
Shields more harm than any other publ'd, tho  
abundantly refuted by Shields himself a few  
months later. At that time in this country  
& Great Britain there was but one journal of  
~~met~~ metaphysical philosophy, that began  
in 1867 by Wm G. Harris, & continued by him  
for 22 years. It was then publ'd in St Louis,  
& probably never rec'd from the publishers a  
copy of Shields to review, since no notice  
even appeared in it. But it <sup>was</sup> well spoken  
of in the philosophical journals of Germany &  
Belgium. It was reviewed at length by  
Dr John Hall of N. Y. & Dr Henry Van Dyke Sr,  
- but best of any by Geo Ripley of the Tribune,  
- Even the Christian Register of Boston, & the  
Open Court of Chicago, recognized the learn-  
ing, the moral elevation & power of intellect  
ual organization displayed by the author,  
however different his premises from theirs.  
Very high encomiums were passed, & intel-  
ligent appreciation expressed by Samuel Bat-  
rows in the Register, Morton Dexter in  
the Congregationalist, & Dr Saml Asquith  
(Episcopalian) in the Evening Post. Not one of  
these reviewers (I have read them all) fully  
recognized Shields' main objective, but  
heartily recognized his manifold incidental  
values. The treatise was so extended,  
& so unripe that one reading wd suffice no  
man to grasp its chief end & importance,  
& one reading, of course, is all it had from  
these early reviewers.



2

A long, acerbic attack by a Spencian  
agnostic appeared in the Saturday Review  
of London, which of course was a mere trifle.  
But in 1889, the year of your graduation  
from College, Vol. II came out, the back-  
bone of the whole work, the greatest single  
volume of philosophy ever written by an  
American author; & so far as he knew  
(for he told me) not a single Princeton  
man was left to appraise it; & you, of all  
men in your class, left college with the  
impression that Shields was a negligible  
quantity.

Yet in all the years  
of your large public service & interna-  
tional influence, a just acquaintance  
with Shields, wd have added very much to  
your equipment; & in not a few instances  
rather men of influence wd have extend-  
ed his influence through the testimony of your  
lips.

There were two men in Scot-  
land, whom you may have met, who  
held Shields' work in exceedingly high  
regard. These were Dr Robert Flint, &  
Dr James Lindsay - both of whom were  
Christian philosophers of exceptional learn-  
ing & weight, & with both whom I had  
some correspondence. The last book  
publ'd by Flint was Philosophy as Scientia Sci-  
entiarum - in the year of Shields' death -  
in his general outlook upon Phil'y, & its rela-  
tion to Neology Flint came closer to Shields  
than any other modern author. Flint had  
read an early brochure of Shields on the other



of the Sciences, that he thought one of the  
best statements of that theme ever made,  
tho' not wholly adequate, as no scheme  
ever was, His estimate appeared in his  
own final volume. On reading it I wrote  
Scribner that if there were any one man  
living who could write an adequate es-  
timate of the Philosophia Ultima, Flint was  
the man; & I suggested that a review copy  
of the treatise sh<sup>d</sup> be sent him, with an  
early pamphlet of my own on Shields. Scrib-  
ner did this, & Flint read the two first  
volumes - perhaps the third wh<sup>ch</sup> came out that  
year - tho' I forget if that reached him.  
Then Flint wrote me a brief letter that  
I have not at hand to quote verbatim;  
but speaking with delighted astonishment,  
& the highest confidence in the exceedingly  
great & permanent importance of the  
treatise, which he said he wd certainly  
endeavor to review fully if his health per-  
mitted. But that proved the last year of  
his life. Had Scribner, who handled  
the obs of Flint, sent him Shields I & II  
when the second appeared in 1889, Shields  
wd have ~~had~~ <sup>sure</sup> had more reputation  
in Scotland, ~~than~~ <sup>on</sup> the land of his forefathers,  
than he had among us.

~~He~~ Flint was a man of prodigious  
learning in theology, philosophy & much  
modern science. His trilogy on Theism,  
Anti Theism, & Agnosticism had done  
great service. & his bk on the Philosophy  
of History. But in learning he was well

Matched by James Lindsay, recently deceased,  
who more than any other British writer  
in philosophy kept en rapport with the American  
production. He also during many yrs  
in the Bibliotheca Sacra & other American  
journals reviewed European publications  
in this field. He wrote me personally  
his valuation of Shields, & his resentment  
of the prevailing ignorance of American  
authors in Brit. Britain. In 1917 appeared  
his own constructive system: A Philosophical  
System of Theistic Idealism, quoting  
Shields, & sent me a copy. In 1922  
he publ'd a supplementary vol. called  
Great Philosophical Problems - wh' I have not  
seen - & died in 1923, when appeared his  
autobiography edited by his widow. I must  
look these up.

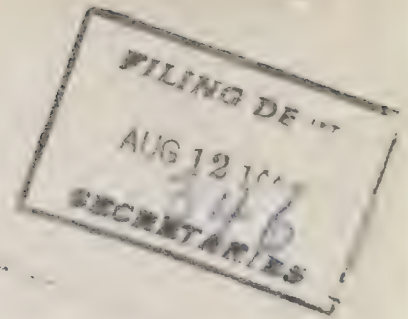
But a new witness to the significance  
of Shields, who has seen only the early bro-  
chure, is Henry Evelyn Bliss, Librarian  
of the College of the City of New York, who  
has just publ'd The Organization of Racial  
Life & The System of the Sciences, 800 pp  
\$34. & 5. Henry Holt. A copy of my  
Brief Estimate was shown him in the University  
Library here, & he wrote me with enthusiasm  
of his interest in Shields - whom in his greater  
production Bliss has yet to read - but will.

But what is it that makes Shields'  
preëminence? In my opinion, he is the only  
man in the whole history of philosophy  
who has known how to effect the nation-  
al coordination of ~~the~~ theology, both compara-  
tive & Christian, as a valid science, with  
all other science in a true philosophia



Christiana. For the philosophical ends in  
view, involving a cosmic synthesis of  
all human science, & the integration  
of all human experience, theism &  
the experienced fact of an over-revelation,  
are assumed by Shields not dogmatically,  
but problematically, until his main argu-  
ment is complete. Then these working  
hypotheses are regarded as reasonably  
established, and their relation ~~to the~~  
of theology to all lower sciences is ~~not~~  
shown to be complementary, proportional  
& ~~correct~~ mutually corrective. Theology  
follows sociology as that follows psychology,  
& that anthropology, & that geology & that  
astronomy, in the natural logical order  
of ascent; these being the <sup>most</sup> general & capital  
sciences in which all other sciences are  
incidentally involved & best represented.  
In these six sciences - all grounded by induc-  
tion in experience, the integration of human  
experience completes itself in a cosmic  
synthesis more adequately demonstrated  
than Spencer, Comte or Hegel in his Ency-  
clopedia succeeded in exhibiting; & these  
six sciences of experience, with their method of in-  
duction, are followed by the metaphysical  
sciences, noetics, ontology & the philosophy of religion  
with their dialectic of the logical antecedent,  
found as the primary & fundamental implica-  
tions of man's totalized experience; in which  
the phenomenal world-order is compared ~~to find~~  
the noumenal world-ground & its correlatives in  
aesthetics, ethics & religion. Cordially Yrs  
Henry Wm Rankin -





August 8th, 1929.  
(dictated Aug. 7)

Mr. Henry W. Rankin,  
46 Spring Street,  
Princeton, New Jersey.

My dear Mr. Rankin:

I thank you warmly for your letter of July 30th with regard to Professor Shields and the Philosophia Ultima.

I don't know whether you will get me under way to read the three volumes or not. I did read very extensively in one of them when I was in college but due, no doubt, to my own obtuseness, it did not lay hold on me, and I ~~stood~~ <sup>am</sup> unconvinced that the other reading that is mapped out ahead should be laid aside for the task of trying to master the Philosophia Ultima.

I do appreciate all the precious effort which you have made to bring me to a better mind and I think I am a little nearer responding to you than I am to a good Swedenborgian friend here in New York who for quarter of a century has been patiently seeking to open my blind eyes to the glories of Swedenborgianism!

with kind regards,

Very cordially yours,

RES:MN

Henry Rankin

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SEP 27 1929

Mr. Speer

Princeton N.J.  
46 Spring

Sept 24. 1929

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My dear Mr. Speer;

Int

You doubtless know that my sister, Mrs. Janvier has recently arrived in this country, & makes her headquarters in Philadelphia at the Westbury, 15<sup>th</sup> & Spruce St. She wishes to spend a year in the interest of the College at Allahabad, while the memory of Rodney Janvier is still fresh in many minds, & then to return & end her days in India. She seems to be in excellent health, & is already booked for a number of addresses on India & Missions - & wishes to get as many such opportunities as she may in the ensuing months. I think she succeeds very well in interesting the bodies of any church - as you can ascertain -

& perhaps it may be practicable  
 for you to arrange some meetings  
 for her in Englewood & elsewhere.  
 She has not spoken of this, nor I to  
 her, but she has friends in Phila  
 delphia & neighborhood, also in  
 Swanton, who have thus far aided  
 her. She spent three hours with  
 me in Princeton recently, & I  
 hope for a two weeks' visit with  
 her during the winter, or sooner  
 in Swanton Vt, where on Oct 1  
 I go again to spend the winter  
 that will be my address for  
 the next eight months - if my  
 life is spared that long; tho my  
 health is getting precarious. I  
 have some enlargement of the  
 heart, such as carried off  
 D. L. Moody. My friends  
 in Swanton, Herbert Chittier's fami  
 ily, who have already made me  
 very much at home there in  
 four previous winters, tho'

I wish all I could give my sister a chance to tell  
 about India, where also my mother & youngest sister gave her life, as  
 second wife of the first Wm. S. Eudner.

Princeton 7/1  
 Princeton  
 1909



not last winter when I was here in  
Princeton, have wished me to  
come again; & wish my sister  
to come for a two weeks' visit  
while I am there. In case she  
can arrange to do that, she can  
probably stop over a few days in  
Albany with our cousins there, &  
so save the journey, enjoy their  
delightful hospitality, & perhaps  
address some Presbyterian ladies  
of that city. My cousin Edward  
is a lawyer, whose partner is his  
son Elmendorf, with two or three  
junior partners in addition. His  
house, Cherry Hill, was built in 1768  
by General Phillip van Rensselaer, &  
has been continuously occupied  
by descendants of the family down  
the present time; as my cousin's  
wife is a van Rensselaer on her  
mother's side, & their old colonial  
house, near the Schuyler mansion,  
is almost an example of 18<sup>th</sup>  
century charm & space on the inside,  
tho' on the outside it is like a barn.  
Its location on So Pearl St is now  
a shabby part of town, but originally,

The claims I think will due. cordially W. R. Rankin.

The large acreage sloped down in green banks to the water's edge, when the Hudson was a clean river, when eagles & Bryants Waterfowl soared above, & all manner of singing birds were seen & heard among the trees & hedge garden of the large home-stead lot. The lot has yet four acres left, & the house is much screened by shrubbery & trees from the rail-road, trolley line & gas tanks that now intervene between their gate, & the river. But four foot logs, still burn on the big parlor, heated, fed from wood grown on <sup>the</sup> place. Old silver hairlornes grace the <sup>dining</sup> table, military portraits hang on the wall of the great stairway, military commissions signed by G. Washington, beside them, with the portrait of a son lost in the German war, ~~beside~~ <sup>and</sup> the exquisite engraved testimonial of the French government presented to families of American officers who thus died. Old new books of choice variety abound in every room & in my Cousin's particular den where he rests at last, draws up papers, writes personal letters, & smokes his perpetual cigar. You wd like to spend a day or night in that house, & find out manners the best type of a century ago. I am giving you a rest on Shields, but abate not a not a tittle of

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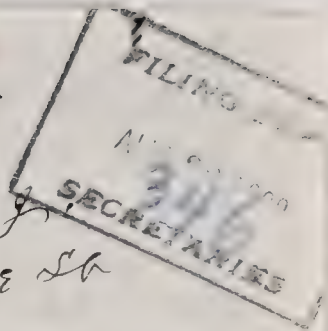
AUG 12 1929

Mr. Speer

Aug 9 . 1929

Princeton N.J.

46 Spring St



Dear Mr. Speer: I wd not venture to say that you wd do well now to spend time in the effort to master Shields, much that he teaches you have already learned from other sources, & his main conclusion is probably one that you, & very many who never read him, have practically shared. Why that when the misinterpretations of Scripture, history & nature at large are removed, the Bible scheme of world-order will be found to coincide with, & complete, the view reached in all the sciences. This, I think, has usually been the ground taken by the larger minds in theology, from Origen to the last few years, & by a few still. This ground taken by Shields first, as a working theory, & last, as a satisfactorily proved result, is no new ground; tho' rejected by rationalists of the last century & modernists of the present. What Shields has done ~~was~~ to give it the most complete examination it has ever received in any one treatise, on all planes of experience & science from



lowest physical to highest spiritual level  
& realm of research, many atheists  
have made it a reasonable propo-  
sition in particular fields of study, but  
he has, for the first time, brought together  
in a comprehensive comparison, <sup>on</sup> a  
really cosmic scale, the alternative  
propositions on the whole line of con-  
tact & conflict, by a method of in-  
quiry original with himself, & in my  
opinion, constituting the most fair &  
most philosophical way of approach  
to the chief problems of human thought.

But the backbone of his treatise, & also  
the very heart of it, are in his second  
vol. to which the first is a large, gen-  
eral introduction. I can easily see  
how, in many instances, one rapid  
reading of the first vol. might fail to  
show the real objective of the whole.

It was so in my own case, & plain-  
ly in the case of not a few reviewers.

But happily in my own case years  
before reading either vol. I had read  
the early essay in which the work was  
first projected. This essay forms a  
concise conspectus of the subsequent treatise,  
& makes perhaps a stronger  
impression than the first vol. alone  
would of the unity & meaning of the  
whole, no less than of its exceptional  
scope.

That Essay, wh' I read in my first year of College, has guided the reading of all the years coming after; but I never read the treatise until both vols were out, & the first in a revised form. I then read them together, greatly interested, but, as I must confess, considerably baffled at first perusal, to understand the method & meaning of the whole.

There is a kind of repetition running through the volumes that is a little wearisome, tho' marked by a tidal movement of cumulative force, & many brilliant passages that light the way. At first the reader may fail to see the woods for the trees. But patient continuance of effort discovers the value & significance of a tremendous intellectual enterprise.

A reviewer of both vols in the Examiner, New York, July 18, 1889

says: "In a work of such magnitude, & of such encyclopedic compass, it is easy to misconceive the purpose of the writer, & even to dismiss with a sneer the great enterprise of a philosophical scholar, who, without formally professing to do so, has really been compelled, by the very nature of his task, to take all knowledge for his province".

No production of approaching the scope of this was ever fully appreciated with one reading. My own appreciation has only steadily increased with each ~~each~~ of my successive readings, & one year



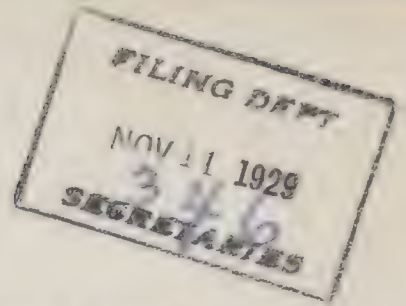
when I was better able to do it than now.  
 But how many readers in any genera-  
 tion since Plato have a sufficient first  
 hand knowledge of his Dialogues to form  
 an independent judgment of his worth & teach-  
 ing? This is dwelt upon in a most illumina-  
 ting manner by Emerson in the second  
 much later of his two great essays on Plato.  
 But the same thing can be said of Emerson  
 who has been very commonly misunder-  
 stood & underestimated as to the unity & value  
 message of his total work, by those who  
 read his Monologues in scraps,  
 & never with sufficient continuity to  
 learn his fundamental position or importance.  
 Every man's reading is inevitably lim-  
 ited, & we are forced to choose amid the  
 multitudes of claims on our attention.  
 But what I say of Plato & Emerson applies  
 no less to Bacon, Leibnitz, Kant & Hegel  
 all of whom are understood at first  
 hand by only a very limited group of stu-  
 dents. None of us can read all things,  
 not even all we want to read. But  
 I have reason to thank God for directing  
 my attention in early years to both Em-  
 erson & Shields.

I suppose you are not a subscriber to  
 the Princeton Theological Review, & never  
 saw ~~the~~ three articles of mine on Shields in  
 1915-6. I meant to send them to you, but think  
 you were out of the country at that time.  
 Thank you for your patience with my interest  
 Yours Cordially  
 Henry W. Rankin

perseverance

Of course you know that Mrs. Siffert & the  
 Mrs. Jamieson has arrived in New York  
 wishes to see you in a year or so  
 return.





November 6, 1929

Mr. Henry W. Rankin  
46 Spring Street  
Princeton, N. J.

My dear Mr. Rankin:

It was a pleasure to get some time ago your letter of September 24th which I am sharing with Miss Sheppard and Miss Elliott, two of the women secretaries of our Board. I need not tell you how highly I esteem Mrs. Janvier. I have not heard from her for some time but perhaps Miss Sheppard has been in communication with her and she will know whatever Mrs. Janvier has expressed as to her mind with regard to her future work.

It is a very attractive picture that you paint of the Albany home. I wish I might have the opportunity of seeing it and meeting your cousin there. That generation with its ideals and attitudes is too much passed away.

Elliott was down today from Northfield. He and his associates are working diligently on the campaign for sufficient endowment funds to meet the various needs of the Institution and supplementing what the schools will hope to continue to receive in annual donations from friends and supporters.

With warm regard,

Very cordially yours,

RES/d

RECEIVED  
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JAN 4 1931  
SECRETARY

December 31, 1930.

Mr. Henry W. Rankin,  
Swanton,  
Vermont.

My dear Mr. Rankin:

It was a great pleasure to receive a little while ago an envelope from you addressed to me at Englewood, containing newspaper clippings that you had cut out for me. I am very much obliged, indeed, for these and for the kind thoughtfulness with which you cut them out for me and sent them to me.

I trust that you are well and are having a restful time this winter in your old habitat in Vermont. It must be very much more wintry there than it has been or is here with us.

We spent Christmas at Northfield with Elliott and his family and it was wintry enough there. I never saw a more beautiful day than the Christmas morning. It was very cold and the world was covered with snow, and all the trees were filled with most delicate hoarfrost. It was just like a dream world.

Everything seemed to be going well in the school and Elliott reports that they have made good progress in the special fund which they are raising for endowment, for pensions and for the better equipment and support of the schools.

With kind regard and best wishes for the New Year,

Very cordially yours,

RES:R

Swanton ~~A.S.~~ ~~W.~~, Feb 12, 1932  
Dear Dr Speer: The economic conditions  
of Japan which have produced the inva-  
sion of China have fall of convincing ex-  
position in the N.Y. Sun, Feb 6, by a Wash-  
ington Correspondent with access to the latest  
investigation. But if this invasion  
unites the whole of China into one nation,  
which since the Empire it has not been,  
China will be invincible - whatever initial  
advantage Japan may gain, & the invasion  
will prove its greatest blessing. Short  
of knowing Christ, Sad has a controversy  
with all nations, but China, the oldest na-  
tion with continuous history, is likely to be  
last to have its government overthrown, in  
the final upheaval, before he comes whose right  
it is to reign. In truth, A.W. Rankin



SWANTON  
FEB 12 7.  
5 PM  
1932  
VT.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Dr. Robert E. Spear  
~~Englewood~~  
~~N.J.~~

156 4th St. Ave.  
N. J. C.

H. W. Rankin

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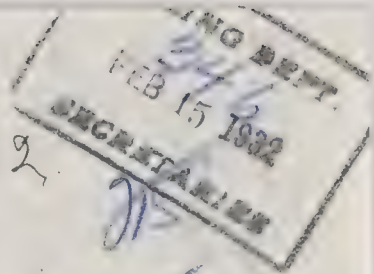
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Feb 8. 1932

FEB

Dr R. E. Spear

Englewood N.J.



My dear Dr Spear: Letters have reached me from yourself & Dr Brown. He hopes to be in Washington next Summer, & I wish it might be possible for me to be there at the same time, & when you are there again. Some years ago I wrote you about the documents of me rather, & told you I wanted them to reach the custody of the Board in the event of my death. But you might have taken them any time since then if I had supposed you or Dr Brown could use them. The documents, & most of the correspondence, are in one trunk at the Seminary Stone House, back of the Cow Barn, & Mr Hill has consented to take charge of all my effects there stored in case I am disabled for making final disposition myself, as I still hope to do.



It was July 1926 that I left Northford  
last for Princeton. Just before  
going I had purpose<sup>d</sup> to spend  
a month in deep-mining my  
boxes, & deciding what to do  
with their contents. But I wished  
- to visit Princeton to use the  
Libraries. Being to W. R.'s quarrel  
with me I was no longer persona  
grata to him, & he had given  
orders before going to Europe  
that I should not be in town  
when he returned. I was  
taken to ~~Northford~~ <sup>Princeton</sup> by an employee  
of the Seminary, who was <sup>to</sup> help  
me find a suitable lodging  
for the following winter, before  
new students arrived to fill  
every room in town. But I  
settled on finding a place, en-  
gaging it for September, to be ta-  
ken back to Northford for another  
month. A telegram from Albert  
to Mr. Pagson, who had conveyed  
me in his own car to Princeton,  
ordered his immediate return  
after getting me a room. This  
message reached him while I

was away from the house making  
a call, & I returned back to find  
him gone, I was left without  
funds, & no way of getting back  
to Northfd, & no way was open  
at that time. My board was  
paid by funds given by alms stu-  
dents of the N. Schools, but no money  
passed into my hands. There  
were weeks in which I could  
not procure stationery or postage  
or laundry work, until a lady  
in Princeton who had long known  
me helped me out. I spent the  
summer in Princeton & winters  
in Swanton & then a whole  
year in Princeton until coming  
here the last time. My use of the  
libraries was most profitable to  
myself, but can never be of ser-  
vice to others unless a miracle  
of money restores my health. But  
for the collapse of health ~~there~~  
I would not have lost my prop-  
erty, or been left dependent as I  
now am. But so long as I had  
means & strength I served the in-  
terests of Northfd to the limit.  
I have put more of my own money  
into those schools, & raised none  
for them from other sources -

than the schools ever spent on me,  
as D. L. M. well knew, & fully appre-  
ciated; as he also knew that this  
was the least part of my service  
in that place - all of which was  
ignored by his successor; But  
my quarrel with him - or his with  
me - was not on the score of his  
conduct towards me, but of his  
flagrant & habitual injustice to  
many others - conspicuously to his  
own brother, to Miss Hall & to Mr  
Dickerson - which began with  
his mother's death, & culminated  
in his treatment of poor Soa & of  
all those trustees who had been  
his own best friends for many  
years, In publishing to the world  
his personal indictment of Elliot  
he floated the very man who had  
stood by him after his father's death  
thick & thin,

His life was spared to complete the re-  
biography of his father - impossible  
had he not resigned all office &  
to repeat of his sins - which may  
God grant be one too late. Yet I  
have never been other than his un-  
reigned friend, have served his  
interests in many ways unrecog-



ing by him; & to day, were it in  
my power, I would do any kind-  
ness to him or his, short of con-  
ceding the offences by which to my  
certain knowledge he has wronged  
many others - even those most  
serviceable to himself; & most  
generous toward him in their  
sentiments.

I think the explana-  
tion & justification of his character  
lies in the fact that as the first  
son of a very distinguished public  
man he was surrounded from  
early life with the hurtful flattery  
of his father's friends, until self-  
importance became too often the  
major premise of his conduct.

Every summer since leaving Northford  
I have wished & needed to <sup>be</sup> back  
to attend to my things in that place  
while I still had strength to do  
it. But now, even if I were  
there, I could not, without very  
efficient assistance, undertake  
that effort. But I would greatly  
like opportunity to supervise it.  
Most of my books I have long  
since given the two schools, & I  
could have large gifts from others,

But I have a few left, such as I  
we most need to use, if we  
well enough to continue my long  
related studies. Besides these  
are many personal or family  
papers & pictures, with printed &  
ms material of study, & other  
things I cannot locate nor even  
recall, so long is it since  
I could go through these boxes.  
All the letters written to the Board  
by Dr Mc Carter from Japan I  
had found in a handsome  
volume; but I gathered from  
surviving friends in China &  
Japan after his death a consider-  
able number of important testi-  
monies - including one from Min-  
ister Tanaka who knew him well  
who says that in the Low Chew affair  
Dr Mc Carter did ~~not~~ much to pre-  
vent a war, while his educational  
work & the influence of his person-  
al character were beyond praise.  
I am sorry that I did not get  
out the autobiography with a  
few notes the day after his death,  
when it would have been well-  
come to many readers - no long

is living, & then prepare this  
other material for a second  
volume of about the same size,  
including a number of his publish-  
ed & some papers. Even now, if  
I were in health, I would wish  
to do that, & double the value of  
the book already printed.

You may recall that in 1923  
I wrote the American Geographi-  
cal Society about the Lew Chew Pan  
Mallet, of which that Society possess-  
ed two copies, one given by himself  
as a member, & one I think by  
S. Wells Williams, I know of only  
two other copies in this country,  
one at Yale, in the S. W. Williams  
library, & one owned until his death  
by the geologist Lyman of Philadel-  
phia, which possibly now belongs  
to the U. P. library, together with the  
collection of Chinese & Japanese  
books presented by Dr. McCarter be-  
fore his final return to Japan.

I advised the Geographical Society  
to guard its copies against theft  
by either Japanese or Chinese  
students who wd instantly recog-  
nize its value. The Society  
at once had made some photo-  
stat copies one of which was



sent to me. This copy I shall  
now send you from Swanton  
for the Library of the Board, sub-  
ject at any time to my use, if I  
should need it. All this other  
material I give the Bd also  
subject to my possible use,  
when you or Dr Brown can ob-  
tain it. But I would urge  
you to read this pamphlet, as per-  
tinent to the present action of  
Japan, & as all sufficient evidence  
were there no other, of ~~our~~ <sup>our</sup> ~~influence~~  
for reaching scholarship & influence  
in those countries. A copy of this  
pamphlet in the hands of Secretary  
of State Simpson at this time, would  
make an invaluable key to all  
the Japanese conquests since 1880  
& to the present war: Korea, Formosa,  
China, Corea, Port Arthur &  
Manchuria. I shall lag this  
to the Secretary of the Geographical  
Society. Also ask Dr Brown to  
read it with his best attention.  
Let me know that it reaches you.  
Writing gets difficult - enough  
for today. Yrs cordially  
Henry Wm Rankin

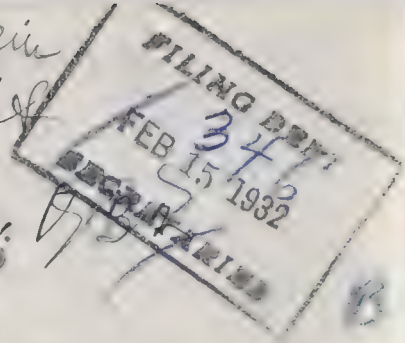
R. E. Speer

# 10 Rankin

FEB 19 1932

Swanton Vt

Feb. 9: 1932



Ans.

Dear Dr. Speer

To day by registered post  
to Englewood I am forwarding  
the Mya pamphlet on the  
Lochao dispute between China  
& Japan. The claims made  
to Japanese supremacy in the  
Lochao Islands were as false  
as the forged decretals of the  
Papacy. ~~But~~ these claims

were officially presented  
to Gen Grant, who had consent-  
ed to act as arbiter ~~in the~~  
between Japan & China on the  
request of both countries.

The Japanese ~~but~~ never supposed  
that any foreigner existed with  
such a knowledge of sources  
as would qualify him to pre-  
pare an effective refutation.

The Japanese claims were published in two English language papers of Tokio, & were also accepted as a valid statement in the year 1879  
Dr McCarter was then acting in official capacity to the first Chinese Legation in Japan as its Foreign Secretary & Adviser. The establishment of this Legation was due to his own initiative as conveyed to Pekin by the Chinese man who became Co-ordinate Minister, having as his chief a man of higher rank without his equipment for the post. This man had been many years earlier a pupil of Dr McCarter in chemistry & physics, while acting as the scholar & secretary of a commercial guild in Ningpo. He became interested in steam navigation, from the suggestion of Dr McCarter bought for his company the first steamer ever owned & operated by a Chinese firm.



This was the beginning of the immense trade in the Yacht, carried on in steamers, nation-owned. But for some time this first steamer carried the tribute since the coast to Keatsin under imperial direction. This gave the Ningpo merchant-scholar influence at Court which made possible the Legation to Japan. All the French & English correspondence was handled by Dr de Castee, who enjoyed the utmost confidence of his Chinese employers, & great prestige among the diplomats in Tokio. His depth in Chinese learning, & extraordinary tact in handling natives of both countries made him most acceptable to all parties concerned.

He had begun the study of Japanese on an early visit of some months in 1861, & never wholly intermitted it. When ten years later he accepted Dr Verbeke's invitation to join him in organizing the first Modern University of Japan he returned & continued the daily study of Japanese, during his five years' connection with the University. His results three years in the Legation, & kept it up after

returning for a long stay in this country. He also gave much attention to <sup>the</sup> Korean language, as all his life he had been learning 'Nippon Dialects & Tongues'.

The aims of Japan in Loo Choo led him to collect all the accessible native records both Japanese & Chinese bearing on the relations of those islands to both countries.

When the Japanese claims were published he was prepared to meet them with exhaustive & decisive evidence to the contrary. But this preparation & the written result were conducted without the knowledge or assistance of any native Japanese, lest his purpose be betrayed. Few, if any, of the missionaries supposed his proficiency in Japanese was sufficiently advanced to permit his doing, without native assistance, this labor of research. But it was done by himself alone. Not only so, but during the visit of General Grant, Dr. McCarter was Chairman of the American Reception Committee, was thrown much with the General, went over with him in detail all the maps & data

He advised the General to propose the topographical ~~concession~~ compromise between the two countries to lessen the friction, which was proposed <sup>by him</sup> & at least accepted by Japan. But the Peking government was divided, & by its own blunder - the Chinese lost all by demanding too much. The General's decision was lost, & the islands lost to China. But the publication of an anonymous publication of Dr McCarter's articles created intense interest to know who the author could be, not learned until after his resignation from the embassy & return to this country; & <sup>also</sup> greatly moderated the violence of Japan's attitude to China. Mr Tanaka, afterwards Minister to Washington, & former ~~head~~ Minister of Education, believed that Dr McCarter <sup>had</sup> incited a war. I had met him in Tokio in 1896, & later he wrote me to this effect. He had immense admiration for the Dr & a cordial affection.

The two occasions  
 >



The Smithsonian Institution at Washington now possesses the splendid testimonials in art. presented to Dr. McCarter by the Japanese Government on his retirement from the University, & the Univ. of Pennsylvania has the gold medal & Comman- sion as Hon. Consul General for China given him by Li Hung Chang for his defense of Chinese claims to the Loo Choo Islands. It was said re- peatedly in Japanese papers that the only foreigner compe- tence to write the Loo Choo articles in defense of China was Ernest Satow, then Secre- tary of British Legation, & later Minister to Peking. But when it became known that Dr. McCarter was the author, many wondered they had not suspected that before. I examined files of the English language papers of the time

In the old Astor Library, besides  
going thro' many vols of Foreign  
Affairs issued by our Govern-  
ment to find such accounts &  
Compendiums of his earlier offi-  
cial work in China as no one  
would guess from the <sup>most</sup> ~~great~~  
narrative of his life ~~from~~ <sup>by</sup> his  
own pen.

I still think, as I wrote you  
years ago, that no missionary  
ever went to China or other  
Sagauland, who has exempli-  
fied so completely as did Dr  
McCartee all the six func-  
tions of a Pioneer usually  
distributed between different  
men: Medical, Educational,  
Literary, Scientific, Politi-  
cal, & Evangelistic - the last  
supplying the ruling motive of  
the whole. But during his  
last years in Japan few be-  
sides Dr Hepburn & Dr Verbeck  
of his missionary associates  
knew the range of his equipment  
or the singular thoroughness of  
his work in every department.

He had brilliant versatility  
without superficiality, <sup>was</sup> ~~dis-~~  
dained from the world for the  
kind of pioneer work he ac-  
complished. Says Emerson,  
"When the Master of the Universe  
has points to carry in his govern-  
ment he impresses his will in  
the structure of minds"

Would God I had ten years of  
sound health to finish what I  
have begun to do for the memory  
of Dr McCarter & of Dr Shields &  
of J G Moody.

In the history of philosophy Shields  
first & Shields alone has shown us  
how may & must be effected the  
rational coordination of theology  
as a valid, tho' improvable,  
science, with all science, to com-  
plete the cosmic synthesis of philoso-  
phy. Apart from this ~~result~~ condi-  
tion no adequate philosophy is  
possible. With it the universe of  
theology, the universe of metaphysics  
& the universe of empirical science  
will coalesce in one selfsame  
universe identical with that of  
Christ's scriptures, sublime & morally  
sufficient beyond <sup>all</sup> the best dreams  
of the past. Cordially, W. Rankin



P.S.

I hope you want file away  
this pamphlet without  
first reading it, & getting  
Dr Brown to read it.

|| Also let me <sup>know</sup> that you safely  
receive it.

If this pamphlet were  
now in the hands of Sec  
retary Stimson, & his  
colleagues in the State  
Dept. these men would  
have a key to the whole  
policy of Japanese Cou-  
gest between 1879 & 1932.

If I were a well man

The last Secretary  
of the Smithsonian In-  
stitution wrote me of  
its immense obligation  
to Dr McCarter for  
his labor of love there  
in identifying & classi-  
fying its large collec-  
tion of objects brought  
from the Far East. He  
has gone to a higher tribu-  
nal of judgment than that  
of blundering men.

I would get it republished  
in its original form  
for all the Chancellaries  
of this Country & Great  
Britain.

It is a great Eye  
opener. H. W. R.

All the native source  
books used by Dr. C  
are now in the Library  
of the U.S.



P.S.

I see that an ambas-  
sador to Japan, Cam-  
eron Forbes (grandson  
to Ralph Waldo Emerson)  
has just accused to  
his face the Prime Minister  
of having deceived him  
regarding Tap-see  
poets in China. This  
is an old story - see  
played in the Los  
Angeles pamphlet.

You know that the  
North Pacific Trustees heard  
many complaints made

of Mr Dickerson who has  
never officially asked  
to answer for himself -  
He was condemned with-  
out a hearing.

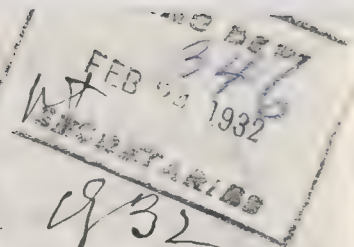
The only amends the Board  
can ever make us to ask  
him soon for his  
account of things, &  
then make him a  
partner as the imme-  
diate successor to W.R.

H.W.R.

copy

File

Shewan Co



Feb 13 1932

Dr H. J. Brown  
New York City  
156 Fifth Ave

✓ B  
✓

My dear Dr Brown

Yours of the 1<sup>st</sup> inst rec'd.  
I'm sorry you did not have  
those Journals to use be-  
fore finishing your history.  
They certainly contain a  
large amount of intimate,  
inside history, <sup>bearing</sup> on the be-  
ginning & conduct of our  
Presbyterian missions.  
If I had known what you  
were doing I wd have  
got them into your hands,  
but perhaps it may not



be too late for you to make  
profitable use yet of these  
records.

I would like very much  
to be in Northford next sum-  
mer when you are there,  
perhaps this May, be possible  
In any case the trunk contain-  
ing the Journals & other ma-  
terial on his life & Dr. C.  
Coates' her Pitt will place  
at your disposal.

I have written again to

Dr. Speer, & he will  
tell you what.

I wish he would turn  
into a book the material  
he has about George  
Bawen of India, or  
that I might live to  
do it. Bawen, whom  
Wm Taylor called the

Land of India, began as a deist  
by reading Gibbon's Rome at  
the age of 14. He became  
a highly accomplished man  
of the world, in language,  
philosophy & Music - also  
I think Mathematics, who  
spent years in Europe bent  
on literary celebrity, before  
the death of his fiancée  
turned him to God. He  
had then passed through  
agnosticism & Pantheism,  
published one Romance,  
& written another, of which  
he used the "rod for shaving  
paper" after his conversion.  
Then a persistent & repeated  
study of the 4<sup>th</sup> Gospel, he  
was led into an exalted  
experience of Christ, con-  
stituting his individual  
Pentecost - while attending

Union Seminary, as a classmate  
of my stepfather Dr Robert  
Dickman of Madison N.J.  
In India he exemplified  
during 40 years the highest  
levels of Christian charac-  
ter & influence on natives  
& foreigners, & made the  
Bombay Guardian as great  
a paper in its way as the  
Manchester Guardian of  
England. He was friend  
at all of highest & lowest  
castes, of all missionaries  
& civil rulers, consulted  
by Government & by his  
poorest neighbors, a man  
of God is so unmistakable  
a degree, that no heathen,  
worldling, atheist or ag-  
nostic could study his life  
without finding that the God re-  
vealed in Christ can be experi-  
mentally better known than any  
other object of knowledge.  
Yours truly, Henry W. Rankin



P.S. Dr Wm H. P. Martin  
 was my father's junior  
 colleague & intimate friend  
 in Ningsha, who in his  
 Cycle of Cathay commemo-  
 rates him in unusual  
 terms, tho without indica-  
 ting the multiparious charac-  
 ter of my father's work.

Dr Martin's estimate of Dr  
 McCarter makes an unfor-  
 tunate misstatement in  
 saying that tho Dr would  
 part at an operation, & in  
 surgery would cut a pa-  
 tient's tendons - both state-  
 ments being impossible to

any surgeon, & never im-  
 agined even once in the  
 large & highly successful  
 practice of Dr McCarter.  
 How Dr Martin could have  
 made that incredible  
 statement is unaccountable,

tho he very highly apprecia-  
ted the Drs qualities & work  
in all other respects.

Dr McCarter was born to be  
a pioneer, & exemplified in  
his sole career with extraor-  
dinary ability, thoroughness, in-  
fluence & success the six  
different functions usually  
distributed among different  
men in mission work;  
Medical, educational, literary,  
Scientific, Political & Evan-  
gelistic — the last making  
the motive for the whole.

As a medical man of  
unusual skill, tact and  
sympathy, he reached every  
kind of native & foreigner,  
& might have made a great  
fortune out of his practice.

From the head of the Roman  
Catholic Mission at Ningpo  
a tribute of high regard &  
obligation appears in a note  
written in Latin, to be found

in both China & Japan,

Some where in my effects there  
at Northpt. The Hon. J. A. Commu-  
nity at Ningpo always employ  
ed him when possible &  
was ready to engage him at  
a high compensation for his  
regular service, if would con-  
sent - This is recorded in my  
Father's Journals

As acting Consul for some  
years, & in several diplomatic  
crises, his service to our  
Government rec'd the highest  
commendation in the reports  
to Washington of several Amer-  
ican Ministers & Commissioners,  
This example was spoken of as  
of the kind that every American  
in office ought to show. But  
every dollar of his remuneration  
for any work outside the mis-  
sion was turned over to the  
Board exceeding in amount  
during several years the sala-  
ry the Board gave him.

Not only Minister Lavalee of  
Japan to Washington, but Col Shep-  
pard, our Consul to China, & later  
Adviser to the Japanese Govt, be-

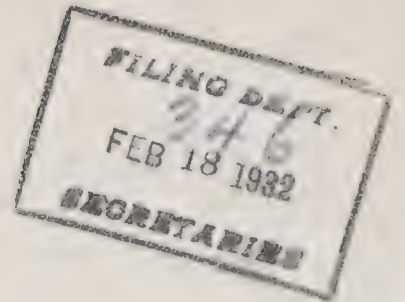


believed that Dr McCaulee was instrumental in averting two wars - one with Russia over Sagalien, & one with China over Lou Choo. I think I sent you at the time my article in the Am. Journal of Sociology, 1907, on the Political Values of the Am. Missionary. An earlier article in the Bibliotheca Sacra in 1898 on the Trade of China & the United States, was read by John Hay before the Boer revolt, & from him I rec'd 30 British & American addresses to which he wished copies to be sent.

After Dr McCaulee's death I rec'd letters from Bishop Moore & Hudson Taylor & others expressing their sense of his unique value to the whole native, foreign, & Missionary Community in China & Hudson Taylor's grateful acknowledgment of my father's large assistance to him in his first Chinese years. Dr Nevins was my father's junior college & intimate friend, in whose house at Lungchow my father died - all narrated ~~in the book~~ by Mrs Nevins in her bk on our life in China.

As I edited Dr Nevins' bk on Semour's Session adding 100 pages of bibliography I collected important letters & reviews that I hoped to utilize in a future edn. tho the 2d edn with had all the corrections I was then able to make. Dr Wm James in this country & Andrew Lang in England were the best champions of the Nevins Book. My Nevins material is somewhere in North York Conscience, H. V. R.

February 15, 1932



Mr. Henry W. Rankin,  
Swanton, Vermont

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Your two good letters of February 8th and 9th have been received and also the pamphlet "Audi Alteram Partem". In your letter of February 9th you speak of sending the pamphlet by registered post to Englewood. I have not lived in Englewood for six years now but the pamphlet has reached me safely and I am turning it over to Dr. Brown and sharing with him both your letters.

As I have said Mrs. Speer and I gave up our Englewood home long ago when all the children had left. We have lived in the city since and have an apartment now at 24 Gramercy Park. It is safest, however, to address all mail here at the office where it is sure to be cared for even if I am away.

It was very good to get your letters and I only wish that you felt that you had strength enough to go on with the tasks which have been on your mind and heart for all these years. Could you not be doing a little on each of them arranging within the next year or two to put in final shape your estimate of Dr. Shields, your notes of Dr. McCartee and any further comment or a revision of Dr. Nevius's book on "Demon Possession."

I hope that Dr. Brown may be able to take advantage of your offer with regard to your father's diaries. I am glad to know that Mr. Fitt has all your papers safely stored at Northfield.

I have the George Bowen material and am still hoping some day to be able to work it over more adequately than I did in connection with the sketch published some years ago in a volume entitled "Studies of Missionary Leadership."

With kind regard,

Very cordially yours,

RES:B



A. W. Rankin

at the office 48

R. E. Speer

Feb 18, 1932

FILING DEPT  
5  
FEB 26 1932  
346  
SECRETARIES

FEB 20 1932  
Dear Dr. Speer

Ans. ~~You~~ ~~at~~ ~~hand~~ - I was not aware that you had left England to take rooms in New York, & usually have been accustomed to addressing you at your home, instead of the office, to find you more at leisure - if to such a man as you leisure is possible what was possible fifty years ago, or seventy five, in the way of leisure, is scarcely possible today to any able bodied man. This present evil alone is just so much more evil for that reason. Many years ago Thos. Carlyle said - "an American; you are rushing Niagara. What



would he do today? These words  
have also been ascribed to Dean  
Copley; & if both men used them,  
two such contradicted historians,  
what ominous insight it be-  
trayed! But in the account to come  
things will be better, & in the  
yet future account referred to  
several times by Paul, in which  
the cumulative purposes will  
reach a dispensation of the  
fulness of times when all hea-  
ven & earth will be recon-  
ciled & made one in Christ.  
Tho' I share to the full the  
central emphasis of the funda-  
mentalists on the supernatural,  
I do not approve all the defini-  
tions of doctrines they commonly  
hold, & some of them had soon  
spoken me a heretic. One thing  
- tho' do not seem to me to under-  
stand, one thing I find plainly

Taught in scripture, tho' in many passages obscured by the translation, is the acyclic constitution of the Universe, in which successive cycles of time, each a new dispensation in the plans of God, his free reaching ends reach new fulfillments that can only bring even new satisfaction to the intellectual & moral nature of his children, new opportunities of service. This is what Taylor Lewis called "the ancient idea of worlds in time, as distinguished from worlds in space." I know of only two authors who have done a measure of justice to this conception which I think makes the whole scheme of Creation & Redemption immeasurably more sublime & morally sufficient than the common view of one limited action ending in judgment followed by an unlimited eternity projected as a straight line with no new prospect to anticipate.

In a forgotten book by Taylor Lewis  
~~published~~ the six days of Creation, published  
in 1855 first in Schenectady & London  
& 20 yrs later in Edinburgh & New York,  
& again in his notes to his edition of  
Lange's Genesis & Ecclesiastes,  
this conception is elaborated & vin-  
dicated by an author who was  
never excelled among American  
scholars for his combination of Greek  
& Hebrew culture. Every book by Taylor  
Lewis is far in advance of his  
own time & largely in advance of  
the present. His unrivalled edition  
of Plato's Laws Book Ten is an in-  
valuable introduction not only to  
the whole of Greek philosophy, but  
of all philosophy to this day, & ex-  
hibits the foundation on which all  
that was ever best in theistic phi-  
losophy has been built.

Many a College agnostic, or merely  
naturalistic theist, would be straight  
ened out by the study of this little  
book, which can be had for fifty  
cents among dealers in old stock.

You can read it through in six  
hours, & nearly master it in  
six days. See plainly your own  
hal-~~l~~ with up to date ammunition  
in addressing students. Need  
not to be theological standpatters



2

to whom J. Lewis has not wholly  
accepted, tho' no man among  
them was more convinced of  
plenary inspiration than he was.  
But both his views of inspiration  
& those of creation would please  
most who should study him  
today.

Following the lead of  
Lewis, Edward Beecher, the  
eminent scholar of that family,  
publ'd in 1878 his last & most mature  
volume, in which this conception  
of the aeonic universe, handled  
by Lewis for its bearing on past  
time, is dealt with by Beecher for  
its bearing on the future: Both  
authors will help any careful  
reader to mount up on wings  
like eagles, & see the whole and  
verse bathed in the glory of God.  
But there are some other neglect-  
ed authors who could prove an  
invaluable asset <sup>in</sup> the painful  
inquiries of modern thought, if  
students in this speeding age  
could be got to read them closely enough  
to master their data & their main  
objective. These include Shields of

Princeton, & Dr Wm F. Warren, first  
President of Boston University,  
splendid in the range & quality of  
his learning, & great in the hearts  
of his pupils, Beecher's book is  
called History of Opinions (a  
just & honest history) on the Scrip-  
tural Doctrine of Retribution,  
(A. Appleton) out of print & priceless.  
Dean West said to me three years  
ago Shields had vision, & he  
was greatly neglected.

The fact is that because he had  
so great a vision they set him  
down for a visionary, & let it  
go at that. But what President  
Hibben has done for Hegel, I would  
do for Shields if I were in health.  
Hibben has made for Hegel, also  
grossly misunderstood by very  
many, the most luminous &  
readable Commentary in the English  
language, strongly vindicating  
the Theism of Hegel, as ~~he~~ did when  
I Harass him, with Stein &  
Everett & Morris in this country &  
in Gt Br. Stirling & Wallace & Caird.

I will quote you here what I wrote to Dean West on my 7<sup>th</sup> birth day three yrs ago. West & I entered College together, tho we didn't leave together:

Among modern authors Shields became for me the strongest influence through his conception of philosophy as the synthesis of all learning, & integration of all experience in rational coordination, to find the bearings of the whole on the ultimate problems of human thought.

Our men of science & theological standpoint are at loggerheads because they do not know how to coordinate their data. But Shields has shown us plainly how that may be done, & how, to complete philosophy, it must be done, & he is ignored. The moral factor in his method is only that of fair play between all parties concerned in dealing with opposed propositions. This is only Bacon's doctrine of idols carried out, & the last thing most men care to heed. Shields does not pretend to answer all the questions that he raises, but, like Socrates, he gains his end by asking questions!



His questions cover the ground so well that a careful reader could find the answers for himself.

Because as a classroom teacher he was too easy with the boys to make them work, few realized the greatness of his mind. A prophet with small honor in his own country, I believe no American at any time has written philosophy with so comprehensive a grasp of its requirements as Shields, so profound a sense of the unity of science, so clear an insight into the issues at stake, or so practical a method of approach to the higher problems. Yet his magnum opus is not a closed system of philosophy, but an organon of research. As such it has never been equalled. That it lacks completion & revision I ascribe to the discouragement of persistent indifference to his splendid effort on the part of his own colleagues & pupils. Yet no scholar in any department of learning could master that treatise without finding the vital connection of his own special interests with the whole of learning, & gaining a conception of the universe of human experience so coherent, so magnificent & so inspiring as no man else in the history of philosophy has

presented, <sup>3</sup> The place of Shields as  
a thinker is with the magnates of  
all time,

So far to Dean West. Shields' treatise is a philosophical clearing house, which if mastered, so to speak, by a student in his college days, would give direction & an index to all his future studies, & show him how all the sciences, including theology, are members one of another - so much so that if one science suffers all the sciences suffer with it, that seen together in their most independent branches, & prerogative instances, the several sciences, together with theology as a valid tho' innumerable science, like all the rest, sustain to each other an organic relation mutually complementary & corrective; while philosophy itself is only the terminal form of science, seeking the fundamental presuppositions common to the whole of experience. This was Aristotle's view of philosophy, as it is that of Shields; while the *Philosophia Prima* of Aristotle

can only be completed in a philosophia ultima, for the obvious reason that what is first in the order of being can only be adequately or best understood from what is last in the order of knowing.

The several sciences reflect different categories of experience. The highest plane of experience is that of religion. The highest religious experience of the human race is that of the Hebrew prophets & apostles & the Christ. Christ himself is our largest single datum, both historically & perennially known as such. Philosophy, in its large cosmic sense, has always taken the whole of man's experience for its province. Any philosophy that fails to reckon with the most important forms of experience, is truncated at its best, & no philosophy can be adequate that is not one according with the Christ. All facts of experience are known to us by the testimony of those to whom the experience comes. All ~~accepted~~ such testimony is authority in every science alike.



The maximum of experience has the maximum authority. The Hebrew prophets & apostles exhibit a consensus of testimony to the experienced fact of an divine revelation. Their concurrent testimony is that of witnesses possessing a moral weight unmatched by any body of witnesses other sciences can bring together. "If we receive the witness of men the witness of God is greater. For the witness of God is this, that he hath testified of his Son" (1 John 5: 8) The science of theology, as a human interpretation of data, is imperfect like every other science. But it rests on the concurrent & coordinate testimony of the prophets, the apostles, the Christ & eternal God himself. The magna charta of philosophy can be found in Romans 1: 20 & is amplified in the 111<sup>th</sup> Psalm. In the history of philosophy Shields alone has shown us how we can & must effect the rational coordination of theology as a valid science with all science to complete the cosmic synthesis of philosophy. It is Augustine who by the way of philosophy was led to Christ who tells

ns that the despiser of philosophy is  
a despiser of truth. The prevalence  
of bad philosophy only makes more  
necessary the good. All philosophy  
from the beginning has taken one of  
two directions - towards God or away  
from him.

me  
I never saw Shields' treatise until a  
year before the death of Flint, who then  
wrote his enthusiastic interest in  
trust in Shields & determination to  
hindered by his decease, to do his best  
to make Shields known to Brit. in.

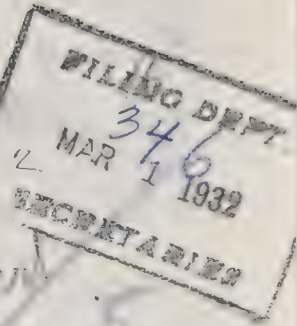
James Lindsay quotes Shields in  
his Theistic Idealism, & writes me  
to the same effect. I have read 60  
or 70 reviews of Shields' books written  
on their first appearance, the best  
were not written in Princeton, but  
in New York, & Boston, Germany &  
Belgium.

Those two first volumes  
that have pleased some readers  
I have read six times through  
& would gladly six times more.  
But a new series of Gifford  
lectures by A. E. Taylor gives a  
splendid new defense of the scien-  
tific value of theology & its claim to  
recognition in philosophy such as  
Shields has given it. Even Wm. James  
wrote me his concurrence with my po-  
sition on the primary place of experience  
in theology - which I had learned largely from  
Shields. Cordially yrs H. W. Rubin

H. W. Perkins

Swanton Vt.

Feb 20. 1932



Mr. H. J. Brown  
New York City  
156 Fifth Ave

Robert  
25

Dear Mr. Brown;

Mr. Spear tells me he has received the de Carter pamphlet on the Japanese pretensions to the Loo Choo Islands in 1879, & that he has turned it over to you. Let me suggest that this is the time to read that pamphlet with the best attention. It furnishes a key to the whole foreign policy of Japan in the last fifty years. The attack upon Loo Choo was the initial movement of Japanese imperialism in the new era, as the attack upon Shanghai is the latest.



Between these lie Formosa, Korea,  
Port Arthur, Kia Choo (forget  
the spelling) Manchuria, &c

The Japanese need of area for  
expansion is certainly very  
great on the score of popula-  
tion, economic & national  
debt, but the methods em-  
ployed have always been those  
of duplicity & force.

Jaworsend Harris said they  
were the worst liars he  
had ever met in his life.

Dr McCauley's discussion is  
timely today, & deserves re-  
publication in full with  
copies placed in the State  
dept of all governments.

The original file of Japanese  
Gazette in which these arti-  
cles were first publ'd was  
destroyed, or most of it,

In a fire that occurred in the  
office of the Paper many years  
ago. Very few reprints had  
been made, & the document  
is extremely scarce, & valuable,  
& subject to theft by interested  
parties. The Geographical Society  
has two copies of the original manu-  
script in which the page & type are  
both larger & more legible, from  
which two or three photostats were  
made. I may be able to  
make some future use of the copy  
in your hands - tho' doubtful;  
but subject to that use, I give  
the document to the library of  
the Mission Board, hoping  
that both you & Mr. Speer  
will read it presently.

By order of Li Hung Chang, it  
was translated at the time  
into Chinese, & our minister  
to China should have been at-  
tending called to it. My fa-  
ther's Journals & some bound  
letters, are very full of inti-  
mate & accurate information

regarding missions work &  
mission workers in the  
early years - incidentally  
other missions than his own.  
The Rebel Occupation of Ningo  
is told in full detail, & is valu-  
able authentic history.

You should & might have  
had those records five  
or ten years ago, had I known  
of your plans. I did tell  
Dr. Speer about them & their  
accessibility in Northfield  
nine or ten years back.  
Of course if my health should  
ever permit I may want  
to use them again myself.

Cordially yours

Henry W. Rankin

The whole file of Dr. McCarter's letters to  
the Board in his last years I had strongly  
& handsomely bound. They contain  
many significant reminiscences  
of his earlier years, & you will  
find that with Journals  
the



20. W Rankin

Stanton St

March 23. 1932

RECEIVED  
346  
1932  
SECRETARIAT

3/29

Dear Mr. Secy, I suppose conditions in the Far East keep you here busy incessantly, & that you can scarcely read more than the daily news, or write except as you are forced to, for doubtless see the Christian Century, wh. like the Outlook under Leonard & Rhat, is weak in the day, but shows in a pitiful way. His recent editorials on the Far East situation are powerful, & in general just. Sherrill Eddy's article in March 16 is extremely valuable. Tho his acc't of facts he cannot see the inevitability of war up to the

my day at the Lord. All these  
Nationalists will not even acknowledge  
the right of self defense against  
violence in a nation, and  
victual, & they blinde, imagine  
that Christ himself was a pacifist  
— as if a soft answer to a private  
abuse secured us from dechad  
ing our families, neighbors  
& country. A consistent  
Christ wd ~~allow~~ have China  
stand back, & allow Japan  
to overrun the whole country,  
would have permitted Jap-  
many to overrun all the  
countries, & would have  
forbidden Geo Washington  
& Abraham Lincoln.

But I am writing to remind  
you that Dr McCauley's Pam-  
phlet of 1879 has immediate  
& momentous pertinence to  
the present situation,

providing an initial key to  
many subsequent happenings.

I hope that you + Dr Brown  
may read, mark & in-  
deed digest it, before  
filing it out of sight out  
of mind.

I suppose the North's Schools  
suffer much depletion of  
income from investments  
like most endowed in-  
stitutions, & I have not  
been told what provision  
has been made for raising  
the funds for current expen-  
ses. I suppose Elliot is now  
relieved of the financial  
responsibility.

In Edinburgh I hope he  
makes the acquaintance of  
Mr Alfred E. Taylor, whose



Recent Pifford Lectures on the  
Faith of a Moralistic Cosmology  
trace the theological & Christian  
implications of morals about  
- if the best morals are to be  
made effective. This was  
a bold position for to be  
defended on a lecturership  
only concerned with Natural  
Religion - of which the  
greatest prophet in the last  
century was Emerson - he  
greatly preferred Immanuel Kant.  
But Taylor has done his work  
well, & the fielding more than  
is required to the modernist at-  
titude - which is wholly grounded  
in the modern misconception of  
world order. There are strong af-  
finities between Taylor & Shields in  
the vindication of theology as a  
valid science. Assoc. Stable of  
rational coordination with  
all other science in a philosophy  
of Christian - <sup>of cosmology</sup>  
W. Rankin

RECORDS DEPT  
346  
MAY 4 1932  
SECRETARIAT

March 29, 1932  
(Dict. March 28)

Mr. Henry W. Rankin,  
Swanton,  
Vermont.

My dear Mr. Rankin:

I was glad to get your letter of March 23 with its enclosures, including even the cheap fling of the Swanton paper about missionary effort in the Orient. It sounds of the same intellectual, spiritual grade as Will Rogers' sneers.

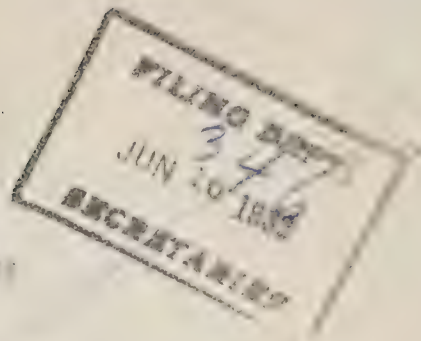
Thank you also for your reference to Taylor's Gifford lectures. I have not read these. Indeed, all my reading of late has been on the first two Christian centuries. It is amazing to see in so much of the modernistic literature the evidence of the wishful thinking which that literature discovers in the history of Christianity and the development of Christian doctrine.

Elliott is having a very happy, profitable time in Edinburgh and looks forward with much expectation to taking up his work at Mt. Hermon in the fall.

With kind regard -

Very cordially yours,

RES:AMW



June 11, 1953

Rev. Thomas Coyle,  
Westhampton Beach,  
New York.

My Dear Mr. Coyle,

I was glad to receive your letter of June 2nd with regard to our friend, Mr. Henry T. Rankin, and enclose herewith a small contribution to the Fund which you are making.

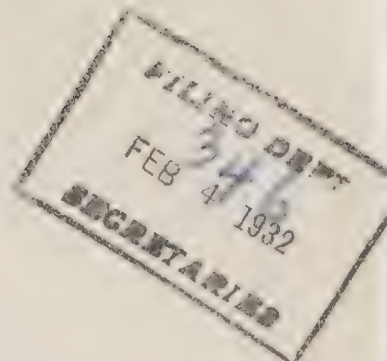
If you take up again the matter of a home, I think it would be worth your while to look into the home at Amber, Penna. The Rev. Richard Montgomery has charge of admissions to the home. I am told that it is a delightful place, fully endowed, and that those who are admitted have no expenses whatever to pay.

Very cordially yours,

Mr. Montgomery's address is Lyncoke, Penna.



February 1, 1932



Mr. H. W. Rankin,  
Swanton, Vermont.

My dear Mr. Rankin:

It was a pleasure to receive your letter of January 24th with regard to the Journals of your father. What fascinating records they must be. I am sharing your letter with Dr. Brown and am asking him to let you know whether it will be possible for him to take advantage of your generous offer with regard to access to this material. Since giving up his home in Northfield I do not think that he goes back there as often as in the past. My impression is that he was there last summer and it may be that he will be going up again sometime this summer.

Where are the boxes in Northfield which contain these Journals and could you identify the particular boxes so that it would not be necessary to open others.

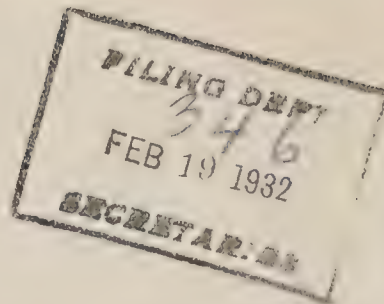
It was good to hear from you again and I trust that you are having a good winter.

With kind regard,

Very cordially yours,

RES:B

(Copy for Dr. Speer)



Emeritus

February 4, 1932.

Mr. Henry W. Rankin,  
Swanton,  
Vermont.

Dear Mr. Rankin;

Dr. Robert E. Speer has shared with me your letter to him of January 24th, and I have read it with deep interest. It was good of you to write it.

I have already finished the China section of the Centennial History of Presbyterian Foreign Missions. There is an immense amount of material in the files of the Board that I have freely used.

I hope that I can spend my vacation next summer in Northfield, and if I can do so, I shall be glad to look over the material there to which you refer. In the meantime, I am making some extracts from your letter which I shall try to insert.

I note your statement that you are over eighty years of age. I am sure that you are sustained by the consciousness of the presence of your father's God and your own. May He be unfailingly with you.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur J. Brown.

JAN 27 1932

A. W. Ruppel  
Swanton N.H.

Jan 24

MAILING DEPT.  
3234  
FEB 5 1932  
SECRETARIES

Ans.  
to Robt E. Speer  
Englewood N.J.

My dear friend,

In the Record of the Ch. for February I read that Dr. J. F. Brown will prepare a history of the first hundred years of Presby. Missions.

As you are aware I have in a wretched trunk containing the full journals of my father's life from college to the last months before the end. Most of these journals are in large quarto blanks, written in a far more legible hand than mine. Having, as I suppose, destroyed his college diaries, he reviewed their principal contents in about 50 pages, written in China, in one vol. of the series. His theological Sem. life & early pastorate in Rochester are recorded in small quartos, & mostly in short hand to which I have a pamphlet printed key, which key is in the trunk or else in one of my other boxes.



His several voyages are fully described  
& all his missionary experience  
in China, the whole comprised in  
fifteen short years 1848-63, but  
crowded with every kind of  
pioneer work & associations, with  
just generous estimates of his  
colleagues, friends & acquaintan-  
ces, foreign & native. The six  
mission boards represented in  
Ningpo worked in the most col-  
dial relations & much coopera-  
tion, far more cordial & cooper-  
ative than the same denominations  
appeared in their home lands.  
English Churchmen, Baptist & Method-  
ist, American Presbyterian, Baptist  
& Methodist, were, with a few indi-  
vidual exceptions, a splendid group  
of well equipped & noble men &  
women. Translation of Scriptures  
into the local vernacular from  
Hebrew & Greek, was conducted, so  
long as my father lived, by him  
self in company with Mr Russell,  
afterward Bishop Russell, of the  
London Ch Miss Socy. Besides this,

these men, & George <sup>3</sup> Moore, who later  
a Bishop, travelled & preached together  
an itinerating tour of evangeliza-  
tion through the surrounding country.  
My father, with his own father's help,  
secured the erection of a chapel  
for union services in English for  
the families of British & American  
Missionaries, merchants & consuls;  
& these services were carried on  
by members of all the missions pres-  
ent in rotation, a month at a time.  
Once every month a prayer meeting  
was held at the several houses  
of these men, attended by members  
of all these six denominations,  
Having reached the age of ten on  
leaving China I distinctly remember  
such a meeting at my own home, &  
the chapel services, & many of  
members of the different missions,  
& some of these country towns.  
The last person to bid me good  
bye in Ningpo was George Moore  
who gave me a pocket Testament  
that I still possess, inscribed  
with a prayer in his own hand.  
Moore & Russell, McCarter & Mer-  
tin & Nevins - coming later, were  
my father's intimate friends

Besides the work of translation, my father, wrote the first Grammar of English in Ningpo Colloquial, & at times superintended the Printing Press, afterwards moved to Shanghai, the Boys' & Girls' Schools. The latter conducted usually by my mother & Mrs McCarter, carried on a theological class of candidates for the Ministry, while Dr McCarter was training native assistants to in medicine & surgery who later entered full practice for themselves. As my father was the best man of business in his mission, he was usually mission treasurer, & his house was built early & commodious. Here missionaries often spent their first months or year there residing there & beginning the language. The Coulters, Nevins, & Morrison family & others did so. There was usually a British gun boat in the river whose officers were often entertained. New consuls were thus entertained, & on occasion my father acted as consul, & during the Taiiping occupation, was an almost daily



D. F. Engong

attendant, the office of the indur-  
gent chief to conduct negotiations  
with our green council, & secure  
protection for hundreds of natives  
from the violence, robbery &  
rapine with which they were threat-  
ened or which they endured.

Up to that year my father's health  
was always good, but in the hor-  
rible unsanitary conditions of  
the city brought on by the rebels  
he contracted the intestinal dis-  
ease that ended his days. Most  
of his work during that fatal year

was at the daily risk of life —  
not only from these conditions but  
also from the violence of the Chi-  
nese followers too ignorant to  
read the orders of their own  
commanders. He had been  
originally appointed to Ningpo by  
General Lawrence to replace the  
man who had been drowned  
by pirates. Looking for likely  
candidates to man the work, Mr  
Lawrence so visited Princeton where  
my father was still an undergraduate  
& secured his consent to the work

My father was graduated at 17,  
having entered Dartmouth at 14,  
& with little less Latin & Greek than  
he as afterward required, he had  
more mathematics on matricu-  
lating, than was called for until  
the junior year. He had been  
a favorite pupil of Joseph Henry,  
Robert Dod & Jos. Alexander,  
& his complete notes of their  
courses are now in the univer-  
sity library. As not facilities  
for advanced Hebrew were then  
offered in our Seminars, my  
father, between college & Seminary  
spent most of a year in Pittsfield  
Mass., in the family of Dr John Todd  
to get grounded in Hebrew by him  
while assisting in Church work.  
He then spent his first theological  
year at Auburn, where Lawrence  
P. Nichols, then the best American  
metaphysician was giving  
instruction on that Rational Psychology  
that was pubd in a vol of that  
title in 1849, and, in effect, an Am-  
erican Kritik der reinen Vernunft,  
- which, unlike Kant, based ontology.

I think that up to 1890, & Ladd's Intro  
duction, no American scholar ever  
accepted the gratuitous scepticism  
of Kant's Epistemology, tho' several  
had profited much from his Categorical  
lehre as opposed to Hume, & his im-  
provements on the school of Reid.

Hickok was a vital & inspiring teacher  
& my father made full notes on  
his lectures. He was accustomed  
in college & later to take his notes  
in short hand & then write them  
out in long hand, & all that he  
wrote is plainly readable still.  
He had been surrounded from  
childhood with the best English  
literature, & the highly educated  
company of his older brothers &  
sisters, & read at home & in  
church a theological discipline  
the lack of which today is as con-  
spicuous in the pulpit as in the  
pew.

There were many of our early  
missionaries made: even a  
medical man, like Dr. McCarter,  
who had been an instructor in  
medicine at the U. P. before going to  
China, had learned Hebrew & Theology  
from his father, was well



grounded in the sciences, & was a born  
naturalist, a home linguist, who  
read his daily Scripture in the Greek  
N.T. to the last days of his life, & sub-  
ordinated all his versatile accom-  
plishments to making Christ known  
in both China & Japan during most  
of 56 years. I hope the mission  
Boards can still show some men  
of this sort.

As I am past 80, & in much bro-  
ken health, & disabled in a way from  
visiting Northfield, as I have long  
needed to do, I cannot examine  
my stored books in that place, nor  
plan as I would the distribution  
of their contents. But if you or Dr  
Brown will go there I will send  
you the key of that one trunk & per-  
haps others here, that you may  
select ~~all~~ for the Library of the A.S.  
Sd all the material you can find  
bearing on the life & work of my father  
Dr McCauley & Dr Lewis, you  
know I edited the latter's book on  
Demon Possession, & gathered reviews  
& other material for use in an im-  
proved edn - never made. I will send  
what further information I can, & would  
been that my effects shd be examined by  
you or Dr Brown in person, than by any  
one else. Cordially yrs Henry W. Rankin

Stoughton to  
my dear Mr Speer,

FILED  
Jan 17. 1933  
346-39  
SECRETARIES

It always happens to hear from you  
& I shall be glad to see your views of the Missionary.

2267

There is a short & strong response in the Bibliotheca Sacra for Jan. just out by Dr W. B. Anderson of Phila. Missions have little

interest for the modernist mind, which itself always needs to see Christ evidently set forth to believe his claims & function.

It is the largest fact in the whole range of human experience - a fact not confined to ancient history. Science demanding empirical evidence for all its data might easily find in Christ as matter of past & present experience the central datum of the universe in whom nature & the supernatural have their highest & perfect conjunction, & expression: the final criterion of not only all revelation but of the whole world-order - indeed the one best key to that order in whom all philosophy



must be entered. "He that knows  
not Christ", says Pascal "knows  
not the order of the world, knows  
not himself". Pascal's personal  
experience of Christ was like  
that of Moody & Finney, & J. Wes-  
ley & Martin Luther, & John Bunyan,  
Mrs J. Edwards, Theresa & Catharine  
Adorna. See a splendid  
article on Pascal in Biblical  
Review. April 1928. The same  
Review Jan 1923 reviews a  
German work on the Apostles Creed  
in which each clause is handled  
by a group of German scholars  
~~with a~~ in a powerful vindication  
on historical, exegetical & experi-  
mental grounds. The review is  
written by Julius B. Reuermann.  
In the same number see John Ritchie  
on The Rise & Growth of Evangelical  
Congregations in South America  
— all of which we'd have doubtless  
been impossible if sought on  
the lines proposed in the Laguerre  
Report. Schwegler in his handbook  
of the History of Philosophy freely ad-  
mits "that God became man — is,  
speculatively, the fundamental idea



of Christianity, an idea expressed practically too fully from the first had a practically religious character) in the redemptive (reconciliation) & the call for regeneration; (that is of a purification & religious transformation of sense in contrast to the merely negative activity of asceticism.)" All this & more.

Even Coate, whose ulterior purpose was to elevate human society to the altruistic plane of conduct, found that this could not be <sup>brought about</sup> without a "sublime inspiration" of human nature — which was his name for religious conversion.

Even Schelling, in his fair period, says: "The great idea of Christianity is God incarnate in man"

And Hegel who rightly insisted that "the thought of God is the soul of all religion", also says in his Phily of Religion that the only God who can be self-revealing is the God of Christianity; & that "Christ is the absolute Man, who comprises the principle of posterity of all history ~~in history~~ in himself in an abso

lately unique manner" also that  
"Es liegt wesentlich im Begriffe der  
wahrhaften Religion, d. h. der  
jenigen deren Inhalt den Absolute  
Geist ist, dass sie geoffenbart  
& zwar von Gott geoffenbart sei."  
Hegel, who has been grossly misun-  
derstood by many, was so little  
a pantheist, that the reputation  
of pantheism formed a central axis  
of his whole enterprise. He tho chiefly  
judged & misjudged by his Logic, which  
his best German, British & American  
interpreters find profoundly theistic,  
this Logic is only the skeleton of a  
system, which assumes Christianity  
as historically authentic & rationally  
valid - however imperfect his  
own validation may be. The finality  
of Xty as the only Absolute Religion,  
to which all other religions are  
distant & imperfect approaches  
was his cordial conviction during  
all of his public life. His rector-  
ial defense of the Augsburg Con-  
fession was most unequivocal  
sincere & sincere. & the last underta-  
king before his death was a rehabili-  
tation of the theistic arguments which  
Kant had judged he had undermined.



these things I mention from their bearing on your Stout Lectures, which I hope yet to find & read.

Baldwin's Dictionary of Philosophy as Personality tells us that "The Christian idea of the absolute moral worth of personality is as central in the ethics of Kant."

And Heberweg tells us (p. 152) "Kant claims for man a freedom that places him completely outside the chain of natural causes"

In my own convictions the origin of man & the origin of Christ are ~~the~~ problems ~~of~~ making the foci of an ellipse about which revolves the whole of modern thought. They are inseparable & coördinate problems, & for those who accept the Bible record as authentic history, the whole of Christianity hangs between these two well attested events - The <sup>initial</sup> creation of man in the image of God & the Incarnation of God in the image of man. These paramount events of history stand



or fall together. They alone make  
man worthy of redemption &  
God able to redeem.

Emerson - whom I had lectured  
in at 27 over & have studied ever  
since - says "Man is dissatisfied  
with himself, a god in ruins."

This may be inferred from Ps.  
82: 6-7 - words authenticated by  
Christ in John 10: 34.

These words also take us back to  
the creation of man. Since a  
correct version of v. 7 would be  
"ye shall die like Adam"  
(which was the son of God, <sup>John 3: 38</sup>)

Emerson says: "The foregoing gen-  
erations beheld God & nature  
face to face, not through their eyes,  
why should not we also enjoy an  
original relation to the universe?"

"The problem of restoring to the  
world original eternal beauty  
is solved by the redemption of  
the soul". Nature. 1836,

Cousin had said shortly before  
that date that "All antique traditions  
refer to an age in which man at  
his departure from the hand of God  
rec'd from him immediately all

lights & all truths, soon obscured &  
corrupted by time & the incomplete  
science of man" (History of Modern Philosophy)  
The three magnates of Greek thought  
fully believed this, & regarded  
the current mythology as the cor-  
ruption of a perennial revelation  
For Emerson, as for Plato, the whole  
universe exists for moral ends,  
to which all other ends are subor-  
dinate; & the moral order with its  
spiritual background, is world-  
order in its highest form.

For Emerson, Christ alone estima-  
ted aright the true worth of man;  
tho he believed Christ was only  
every man writ large. When  
Henry B. Smith began listening to Em-  
erson he wrote in his Journal:  
"Very able & very false". Years  
afterward, having read & reviewed  
several of Emerson's books  
he wrote again in his Journal:  
"All that Emerson lacks is Christ."  
Emerson was talking once with  
Hawthorne & ~~he~~ having in mind  
the supernatural claims of Christ  
said: "We must get rid of the Christ."  
No, answered Hawthorne. "No, Mr.  
Emerson; we cannot do without the Christ."



This is reported by Moncure S. Conway in his Emerson at Home & Abroad.  
Bronson Alcott, who altho' older than Emerson, survived him by several years, & was at his own best in late years, wrote when past 80 a memorial ode to his old friend, almost worthy to compare - tho' much more brief - with Shelley's on Keats, Lennox's on Hallam & Milton's on Lycidas. But Bronson Alcott, more than ten years before the sud, be-  
came an evangelical Christian, & witnessed a most explicit & admirable confession before a distinguished company gathered in Boston, of which the chairman was Dr Wm G. Warren, President of Boston University, who reported the occasion fully in the New York Christian Advocate of April 17, 1879. A reprint of this, with a brief introduction, would make a notable tract, that you could use with great advantage in addressing students - old or young.



Save for an evil heart of unbelief all that stands in the way of the old faith, is the major premise of modern thought - the admission of a naturalistic universe. In such an order all events, all phenomena, are the necessitated product & mathematical equivalent of natural antecedents alone. There is no real beginning anywhere, & can be no end; because to admit an end implies a beginning. Few indeed make a consistent application of this premise. Exceptions appear, as in the origin of motion & the origin of life. The only alternative to the natural antecedents is a supernatural antecedent, the very thought of which is the bête noire of the modern mind, which does not readily recognize with Corrocher that "Nature is but the name for an effect whose cause is God," and that the whole ascent of nature from motion to man, & from man to Christ, is punctuated with evidence of a creative origin for all the primary categories of the old order; & that creation, in the oldest & plainest meaning of the term, implies a spontaneous origin in distinction from the habitual maintenance of

given phenomena.

Perhaps the alternative between the old & new conception of world order has never been better put than it was by Pfeifferer in his volume on Evolution & Theology - p. 2.

who says "There is only one choice: Either the evolutionary mode of thought is right, in which case it must be uniform in all fields of investigation, in history, then, as well as in nature; or it is wrong, in which case the views of nature acquired by means of it are not justified, & we have no right to prefer them to the traditions of faith".

I have followed this dispute closely for 60 years, & despite all contrary assertion & boisterous denunciation am convinced that the modern theory of evolution is bankrupt. Everyone of the six or eight arguments used in its support involves a gratuitous hypothesis, & all of these arguments together rest on the major premise of a universal negative, to the effect that at no point in the ~~the~~ ascent of nature, that Aristotle calls a ladder, do we find any break in the causal nexus indicating the initial agency on the part of the Creator - if there is a Creator,



Get so far as empirical evidence goes  
the whole of nature is a graduated scale,  
& not an inclined plane; & at  
many junctures in natural history,  
& human history, evidence of an origo  
de novo is just as plainly marked  
as evidence of natural development.  
It is marked because we find events  
for which no natural antecedents  
will account. In short, the world  
order of actual observation is  
not an unbroken continuity of  
natural antecedent & product,  
but an alternation of creative origin  
& natural development, as together  
constituting integral, complementary  
& inseparable factors. The miracles  
of scripture merely exhibit in high re-  
-lief for moral ends, a method of  
divine action that makes the whole  
of nature what it is, emphasizing  
the self-revelation no less of God's  
transcendence & freedom & moral  
purpose than of his immanent energy  
& habitual routine.

On every side we hear it said that  
there is <sup>no</sup> conflict between the theory  
of evolution & religion. But if  
consistently applied to the whole  
range of facts it is certainly fatal  
to historical Christianity. That we  
begin by making a fable of Adam  
& end by making a fable of  
Christ - at the Christ himself re-



guarded it down as his own ancestor,  
and ~~is~~ viewed all Old Testament nar-  
rative as authentic history. The  
most test of Scripture is infallible;  
but so marked are the unity & con-  
tinuity of its message from beginning  
to end, so identical the conception  
of world-order & future issues of  
all the writers - though progressively  
developed through many centuries  
& many hands, that the only possible  
explanation is the constant control  
of all the product by one supernatural  
Mind. The science assumes the  
organic unity of the universe which  
the whole circle of science aims to  
reflect. But the organic unity of  
Scripture is more easily shown  
than that of the universe itself;  
while the world-order to be found  
in Scripture, progressively revealed  
is all of it assumed, enriched &  
exemplified by Christ. It is not only  
so, but the Bible has its own doctrine  
of evolution expressed in a gradual  
Constitution of the universe from  
the ages before the earth began to  
those ages beyond the age to come,  
wherein the cumulative purposes  
of God are fulfilled at his own  
leisure in *secula seculorum*.  
His Bible doctrine of a *seculum* com-  
monly ignored or *miscontinued*,

is one to which the modern theory  
cannot hold a ball and stick,  
It was designated as an evolution  
by Henry More the Platonist 200  
yrs before H. Spence confined  
the meaning of the term to a strict  
naturalistic development.

A self consistent naturalism demands  
a non miraculous world-order in which  
all events are necessitated products  
of exclusively natural antecedents, & no  
event results from initial agency  
on the part of God or man, or any  
finite spiritual agent behind the  
scenes. Such as originates need  
conditions not due to those ante-  
cedents. Modernism in theology  
is only a new name for what  
was always known as rationalism  
in this connection. It is only a  
futile attempt to interpret scrip-  
ture in conformity with the mod-  
ern view of the world. It is an  
effort to reduce Christianity to so  
called natural religion, with the  
three postulates that Kant took over  
from the deists, Emerson was the ~~total~~  
~~total~~ modernist at his best  
who with no disingenuousness fore-  
saw the prevalence of this natural  
religion an hundred years ago.

is still call it Christianity.



He was, I think, the best exponent of a naturalistic theism the last century any where produced, & better than Kant, to whom his indebtedness is very slight. His transcendentalism, or theory of knowledge, was that of Plato ~~not that of Kant~~, emphasizing the objective validity of self-evident truth. Plato was always anticipating Christ, Emerson was a reversion from Christ to Plato; altho' explicitly wishing to be regarded as a Christian theist. But so much deeper was his insight into the nature of man & God than that of the deists, or Kant, or most theological rationalists, that, excepting Kant, their writings beside his are thin & cheap. He has much to teach an evangelical Christian.

The rationalist is wholly right in demanding a reasonable theology but is not half rational enough in ~~assuming~~ reasoning from a ~~premise~~ for premise that excludes in advance that initial agency of God for moral ends even in the physical order which is the first prerogative of personality, Only by initial agency is any natural development begun,



& the idea itself is at stake, when we deny divine intervention & initial causality as an integral fact in the whole world-order, as well as in the Hebrew history. All human activities are marked by an alternation of initiative & routine, & we have ample evidence for believing that this same alternation in the action of the Creator marks the whole order of the world.

The theological modernist who clings as some do, to a supernatural Christ while assuming loosely a naturalistic order in nature at large, reasons from contradictory premises, & cannot find for his data a rational coordination or coherent philosophy. He is intellectually muddled. If naturalistic order is utterly incompatible with a Supernatural Christ, & as Dr Craig says "if deism or naturalized Christianity is Christianity extinct!"

Hermann Hogg says that "Evolution has to do with biology, not with religion". But religion concerns man's attitude to the world as a whole. & every religion has some kind of cosmology inseparable from its life.

If misconception of the world-order  
inevitably involves a misconcep-  
tion of the world-ground.

Christianity has for the background  
of all its teaching a conception of  
world-order which was that of all the  
Hebrew prophets, the apostles & of Christ  
himself. Altho' much misunder-  
stood, & even travestied, by its own  
adherents in all the centuries since  
Christ, it has <sup>rather</sup> furnished the popular  
philosophy of all Christian believers  
& needs only to be rightly interpreted  
to prove concurrent with all duly  
attested facts in every science, &  
all principles of self-evident reason.  
Because this concordance has been  
proved in so many instances,  
& continually gets new confirmation,  
we may safely accept Shields' con-  
clusion to the effect that a correct  
misunderstandings are removed  
the universe of theology, the universe  
of metaphysics & the universe of em-  
pirical science will coalesce in  
one self-same universe identical  
with that of Christ & Scripture.  
"Theology has facts of its own that the  
sciences are as much bound to  
respect as it should respect the facts  
of other science." See P. Fisher, History  
of the doctrine. (19.) But I have imposed  
upon your patience long enough -  
Yours cordially: Henry W. Ransom



At the Mtg of Brit. Assoc in  
S. Africa, 1929, Prof  
P. M. S. Watson of London,  
Pres. of Zoological Section  
said this:

"The theories of Lamarck & Darwin are the only two which have gained any general currency, & they rest on 'a secure basis'". "The theory of evolution is universally accepted, not because it can be proved to be true, but because the only alternative, special creation, is clearly 'incredible'".

Branco, Director of Paleontological Institute of Berlin, says that in the history of our planet man appears as a genuine homo novus, & that paleontology knows no ancestors of man. #

Jan 10. 1933

H. H. R.



The literature of refutation  
grows stronger every  
year in England, Germany  
France, Russia, Chicago  
Princeton & New York. but is  
generally ignored by  
Champions of the favorite  
modern theory.

Yet these men continually  
undermine their own  
ground in three ways,

- (1) By mutual contradictions
- (2) By fatal concessions
- (3) By new discoveries  
incompatible with their  
theory & are by the most  
far fetched conjectures.

It is repudiated by a  
long list of naturalists  
Physicists, & scholars  
of the largest & best equip-  
ment. Yet has obtained  
so great momentum in  
our universities & churches

that no epithets are suffi-  
ciently contemptuous to  
withhold from those who  
reject it. But this is that  
pure love of truth that science  
is supposed to encourage  
repress.

Too often the pulpit cowers  
before the chair, & clergy who  
could not pass a decent  
examination on the evidence  
for & against, are willing to  
set aside the consistent  
teaching of all Scripture  
& Christ - the weightiest  
moral cause in testimony  
in the world - for the con-  
clusions of many godless  
men who are the leaders  
of this modern Helian-  
Schauung, which has  
already led into utter  
scepticism & open atheism  
in very many of the best  
minds in Europe & this  
Country. In the last 70 years &

Jamuel Bradford, a victim  
of this sad delusion, wrote  
in immediate conjunction the  
lives of Moody & of Darwin,  
believing that of all men in  
the last century, Darwin ~~is~~  
with all his admirable traits,  
did more than any one else  
to undermine all faith in God,  
& Moody more than anyone  
to build up that faith.  
The longer Bradford lived  
the more conscious he became  
of the desolation of living  
without God, yet for years  
he had totally forsaken the  
Bible & Prayer. His chapter  
on Darwin in the Postscript is  
the severest indictment I  
ever saw of the theory he  
had unwillingly espoused,  
but the whole modern recon-  
struction of the Bible now  
rests upon that theory which  
is taken for granted with the  
critical credulity by count-  
less graduates of the highest  
learning. This alone is enough  
to account for the prevalent  
apostasy.



Liberty & the New Atti-  
tude towards Missions  
By Thomas Kelly,  
Durham College

Anglican Catholic Review  
OCT 1932

Interesting bit of history

H. A. R.

7. R. Merkel: G. W. von

Leibnitz und die China-

mission. T. C. Hindrichs

Leipzig, 1920. makes out a strong  
case for the greater importance  
of Leibnitz in Protestant  
Missionary History.

Leibnitz was greatly interested  
in China, this little book *Narrissima*  
Siveca led to establishment in  
England of Socy for Prop. of Gospel  
in Foreign Parts.

By Wm. Rankin  
\$ Warton & X

Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> 1933  
34  
6  
89

My dear Dr. Speer

226  
Your Examination of the Log-  
news Report is all I could  
wish in substance, manner &  
spirit. Why should not all the  
Boards concerned subscribe to  
it with one consent? I believe  
Pope should be ready to sub-  
scribe to it. It contains nothing  
doctrinally to offend a Roman  
Catholic or an Anglo-Catholic,  
but it does emphasize the cleav-  
age between the Naturalistic  
& Supernaturalistic conceptions  
of Christ, the Church, & even  
the whole world-order.

Before the Commission started  
I wrote Prof. Hocking to say that  
it seemed to me impossible for  
any committee not already ac-  
quainted with the history of Missions  
to judge fairly from a few months'  
visit of present conditions of the  
enterprise in these great countries.



If the Board can spare me five  
copies, I will give one to every  
Clergyman in this town - Congrt, Method,  
Anglo Catholic & Roman Cath. & to  
the local press. I also enclose  
.20¢ for two copies of the pamphlet  
on Buenos Misiones.

The Christian Century for Jan 11  
has a splendid defense of Miss  
Sions in reply to this Laguerre's Re-  
port written by a Jew who for  
ten years has been Staff report-  
er on China for the N. Y. Times  
- Geo E Sokolsky. He is also  
author of a recent bk on 'The  
Sinclair Boy of Itzia'. The same  
number of Ch. Cent. has comments  
from Japan worth reading.

I suppose the Editorial sympathies  
of this paper are largely, not wholly  
with the Commission. This pa-  
per is the real successor to  
The Outlook of L. Abbott's time, &  
while with totally unceremonial  
credulity & ignorance of all con-  
trary evidence, it takes for granted  
the "Aryan" view of the world,

& all its bearing on Scripture,  
it is valuable as an exponent  
of that view, & its emphasis on  
social justice. Its recent con-  
versations about God are all  
conducted on the same major  
premises, & even the best debater  
of the three shows how little he  
knows of the best philosophy has  
done for the theoretic argument from  
the three Greek Magistrates down to date.  
A trenchant article also appears  
in this number on the militant  
atheism of Bertrand Russell &  
Joseph Kitch.

In 1945 LaPlac Lewis published his  
incomparable edition of Plato,  
Laws Bk 10, entitled Plato Contra  
Theos, — an invaluable in-  
troduction to the whole of Plato, &  
even the whole of Greek Phil. His  
notes & excurses fill 3/4 of the  
bk, not only correlate the pas-  
sages containing the theoretic  
teaching of Plato, but correlate  
Plato & the Bible perhaps more  
effectively than any one else has  
done. If all college students had  
to master that bk there wd be few



a theists left. In his Preface Lewis says: "The next great battle ground of infidelity will not be the Scriptures, what faith there may remain will be summoned to defend the very being of God." Within 20 years Cuvier, Darwin, Huxley & Spencer, who perhaps did more to undermine faith in God than any writers since Christ.

Beyond all other writers those three established in the modern mind the major premise of its thinking in the assumption of a naturalistic universe, which consistently applied to Scripture turns the whole Bible into fables, & leaves possible only an attenuated theism as readily dissolves into ~~pantheism~~ deism, pantheism & open atheism.

But the splendid Gifford Lectures of A. E. Taylor convincingly prove that even natural religion, so called, if its implications be closely followed up, demands a supernatural revelation & supernatural grace to make it work. In other words, natural religion without so angelical ~~is~~ is ineffective to secure its own ends.

But proof of the being of God in the full Christian sense can be more cogently shown today than even in the past history of human thought.



2  
The modern policy of Japan in  
the Far East began with its fraud-  
ulent seizure of the Loo Choo-  
lands in 1879 - so. It was followed  
up in Formosa, Korea, Poo Choo,  
Port Arthur & New Manchuria.  
Dr McCarter's answer to Japa-  
nese pretensions in Loo Choo,  
furnishes a sufficient key to  
all this enterprise of fifty years.  
Photostatic copies of that pam-  
phlet made for the State Depart-  
ments of Washington & Europe  
would clarify an understand-  
ing of all that has followed;  
if were it in my power I wd  
have those copies made.

~~For~~ its bearing on the Lagrange  
Report, this wd be a good year  
to publish Col Shepard's estimate  
of Dr McCarter's service as a  
missionary Statesman, scholar  
& friend for 56 years to all the  
best interests of both China &  
Japan. His length of service



I am amused by the notices that I see  
of him, whether high or low, ignorant  
or learned, men or women. He  
was all things to all men; & the  
meagre record made in his  
autobiography is a mere skeleton  
of the events & fruitage of his life.

Would God I had fifty or even  
ten years of health to do the things  
left undone in the fifty years past.  
for China, for Princeton & for  
Northfield. But I am an  
exile from Northfield for having  
served the best interests of  
that place at my own cost.

I am glad that Elliot is so con-  
tacted at Watkinson.  
Of all the young men about D.L.M.  
in his later years there was none  
he more wished to have attached  
to his undertakings than  
yourself, & that your own son  
should be so closely connected  
with the work of D.L.M. seems alto-  
gether fitting.



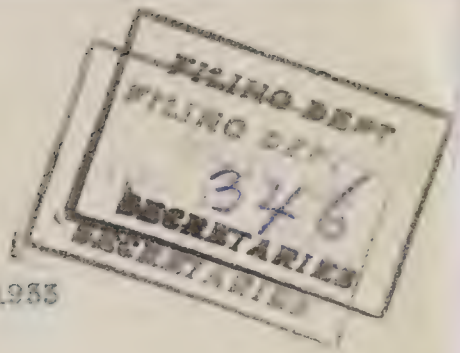
But he will need the faith of S. M.  
to face the deepening shadows  
of his latter day, But soon  
the Sun of Righteousness will rise  
& flood the world with light  
The good time coming will soon  
root all our fears & troubles  
& out do all our dreams:

"When the old world is a heap,  
And the ages are effete,  
He will from wrecks & ruinment  
The fairer world complete;  
He forbids to despair,  
His cheeks mantle with mirth,  
And the unimagined good of men  
Is yearning at the birth".

Emerson: Soul of  
the World.  
Because the Soul of the World  
is also Lord of the World,  
& carries the whole world  
in his heart.

Cordially Yours

Henry W. Rawlin



JANUARY 9, 1955

Mr. Henry W. Rankin,  
Swanton, Vermont.

My dear Mr. Rankin

It was a pleasure to get last week the package of clippings which you sent. It has always been good to have this little touch with you from time to time. I am passing on some of these clippings to Persia and others to Siam.

I had not seen the article of John Haynes Holmes on the Report of the Appraisal Commission of the Laymen's Foreign Missions Inquiry. That Report has given us a great deal of anxiety. I wrote a long critique of it for the January issue of "The Missionary Review of the World." Revell is reprinting this in a little booklet of which I will send you a copy as soon as we get it from the printer.

The thoughts of the whole country have turned to Vermont this past week with gratitude for what the little state has given to the life of the nation.

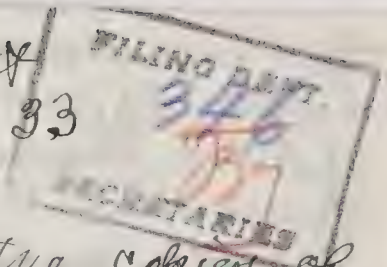
I trust that you are having a good winter. I thought of all your northeast winters when we were spending Christmas day with Elliott at Mount Hermon. He seems to be very happy there in taking up Dr. Cutler's work. It is good to see the unity and goodwill that seems to mark the School, both the faculty and the student body.

With warm regard,

Very cordially yours,

W.S.

To Rankin  
W. Stanton  
18 Feb 1933



Dear Mr. Speer:

Thank you for extra copies of your answer to Lagrange's Report. I have given one to each one of four ministers here - including the Catholic priest - a highly trained man from France, & head of the order of St Edmund vowed to strict poverty. He has the respect of the whole community, & preaches some excellent sermons. Perhaps later I may like to see more copies.

Jan 20<sup>th</sup> act  
In the Church Times (London edition) (Catholic) a letter signed Fair Play on China & Japan says:  
'I claim to know something of both countries, having lived among the peoples of Japan & China for over 30 years. If I had to choose between the 'civilization of Japan', & the absence of it among the Chinese, I should certainly choose the Chinese for myself every time.'  
He says:  
'If the Jap. settlers in Manchuria are treating the native Chinese, as they



they have treated the Koreans for the last 35 yrs - & we cannot be surprised that the Chinese are showing active resentment." In Korea itself thousands of innocent natives were killed in 1919 for being passive resisters, & hundreds were ruthlessly slaughtered without excuse in Yokohama & Lohio after the great earthquake in 1923."

Fortunate for Dr McCarter that he was not living to witness these events - if he had to live in Japan, tho he served that country as faithfully & efficiently as he had China, with the best official & common acknowledgment of the same.

As mentioned in my last, the initial movement of Japan, in the modern order, toward imperial expansion, aggrandisement & aggression, was its seizure of the Loo Choo Islands. The brazen hypocrisy of its claims in that instance has marked each subsequent move; & the Keijo

all that after history is clearly af-  
forded in the pamphlet of Dr McCarter  
at that time.

The Japanese con-  
stitution was modelled on the  
Prussian, & the national spirit  
shown had been the same. in its  
treatment of all conquered people,  
the many tributary races of the  
old Chinese empire, were treated  
with more tact & justice, & given  
far more local autonomy, than  
has ever been shown by Japan,  
that empire began a thousand  
years before Rome & continued  
to the end of the last century  
with higher average morals,  
civil order & prosperity of in-  
dustry, commerce, art & letters  
than is true of any Pagan nation  
in world history; & until the  
end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the de-  
cline & fall of this great pres-  
tige could be affirmed.

An missionary in Japan could  
not understand - except the baron  
& Brown - how Dr McCarter should  
so perpe the Chinese to the Japanese  
but no use of them, even enjoy & U  
his equal opportunity for close obser-  
vation  
nearly nation



Study of both races.

What you say of Fundamentalism I say too. I have seen no official platform of this party, & I do not know all definitions of doctrine held by most I suppose of the members. But I hold the four Gospels & all Bible narrative to be authentic history, & measure all the implications of that history by the mind of Christ as reflected in the Gospels. With no expert knowledge of criticism I have followed its trend ever since I was a girl, & still find that the Bible & Christ authenticate themselves. The Johannine authenticity of John was strongly defended by three American scholars who helped me much when I was young - Ezra Abbot, A. P. Peabody & Edmund Hamilton Sears - All the staggering claims of Christ in John - all his "hard sayings" are implied in the other three, & the documentary hypothesis in both New & Old Testament is wrecked on its own confusion. "The dynamic omnipresence of God" (Leibniz) upholds & directs the whole universe, & indeed makes it a universe; so that the whole of nature is grounded in the supernatural, & absent from that would not exist. I have read Raven's article also in his invaluable book on Hellenism, & I can myself a monotheist, not a holotheist, as was even Strauss.

Yrs cordially, Henry W. Rankin





March 1, 1933  
(Dict. Feb. 27)

Mr. Henry W. Rankin,  
Swanton,  
Vermont.

My dear Mr. Rankin:

I am very much obliged for your letters of  
February 18 and 19 with the enclosures. I am returning  
herewith the clippings which you marked for return.

OK

I have seen with great interest your article  
in the Record of Christian Work. I wish you would do more of  
this writing for the magazines. It would be a great help  
if you would send the Record of Christian Work a careful  
criticism of the theology of the Laymen's Inquiry Report.  
Could you not do this some time?

With kind regard -

Very cordially yours,

RES:AMW

Dictated by Mr. Spear  
Signed in his absence

Harry Rankin  
R. F. Speer  
Swanton Vt

FILED DEPT  
NO 346  
1933  
SECRETARIES

FEB 21 1933

Feb 19, 1933

3

Dear Mr Speer:

I have just read again the article by Canon Raper in the 24 Century - what a splendid piece it is, what an answer! How gently, how effectively it takes the wind out of the Pagans' sails, & leaves them flat & drifting! In matters of New Testament Criticism he tells them openly they are 20 yrs behind the times. They would not have been so had they during those 20 years followed up the now alas! defunct Princeton Review. Is it not intended to issue a new series? I am not a clergyman, but always read it when I could get it, to say nothing of Cambridge & Chicago & London.

I didn't want to be so far behind in the most vital problems of all. Surely Christ is our unit of measure in all problems moral & religious - not only in these, but for all foregoing history & world-order. For if he is what he appears in Gospels & Epistles our whole conception of human history from the beginning, & of the natural order must conform to him. He is no epiphenomenon, but the pivot of the universe, thro whom it was made, & without whom it would not exist. He is the Eternal Logos thro whom Eternal God is always centrally & perfectly expressed, as much before as since the Incarnation. The sacrifice of Christ is moreover the self-sacrifice of God himself for the disobedient children, whereby he has exemplified for us the whole meaning of love which is recognized in the universal law



Science of mankind as the ideal of  
what all love should be  
I believe that Christ is not God  
and man, two incongruous  
natures in one person; nor  
merely God in man, as he may  
be in every man; but God as  
man; taking upon himself not  
our nature, as in Hebrews sup-  
plied by the translator, but our  
Conditions, by an act of self-  
dismemberment, as the only means  
whereby he could both exemplify  
by the character he requires  
of us, & the vicarious suffer-  
ing necessary to complete the  
perfect reconciliation of all  
alienated souls willing to accept  
it:— But all this & more!

Why should God have to take  
on our nature, when he is  
his own offspring & generically  
kindred? It was not our nature  
but our conditions that he humbled  
himself to assume until the end  
was accomplished, & so this

again became possible by reason of  
his own plural personality - pos-  
sibly with no subtraction from  
his attributes as still absolute &  
perfect.

I wish your own answer might  
be read by the editors of this  
journal, & by every Northf<sup>d</sup> teach-  
er & trustee, & by how many  
more! read & committed to  
heart. My sole rejoicing  
for Northf<sup>d</sup> concerns the mod-  
ernistic mind - lest all its  
Bible teaching be conformed  
to that. Would God we  
had another man of the  
right hand of the Most High  
to lead Northf<sup>d</sup> & the churches  
in this day when the number  
of fast multiplies of those  
who know not God, & obey not  
the Gospel of his Son.

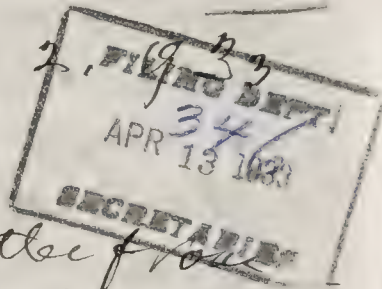
Cordially  
yours

Henry Wm Rawlin.

Henry Rankin  
Swanton VT

ATW

April 2,



Dear Mr. Spear

The enclosed letter from  
Dr. Hocking was late in  
reaching me, or would  
have been forwarded sooner,  
I told him my own atti-  
tude to the Report was ex-  
pressed in your reply;  
but send this on that you  
may guard yourself.

Perhaps you have already  
heard from him your-  
self as you should.

The letters of our James he  
refers to are some written  
me in the last ~~12~~ years of  
his life, of great interest for  
their bearing on his Difford  
lectures.



Wm James was the one con-  
spicuous man of influence  
who openly depended on  
many occasions, the Review  
book of on Reason & Progress  
in China that had  
been for Dr Nevins, ad-  
ding an hundred pages  
of Bibliography

Not the only dependence if we  
include Andrew Lang,  
who made a most ap-  
preciative review in  
the Lancet. Illustrated  
News. It has again re-  
ferred to <sup>Nevins</sup> in making  
of Religion.

Both men accept the testi-  
mony of the Chinese witnesses  
cited by Dr Nevins, as  
in keeping with the evidence  
they had found in every

age & every race, old & new  
Bible men believed that  
the phenomena & claims  
of modern spiritism were  
ly repeat those of all  
classical & pagan antiqui-  
ty, & that the evidence of  
spirit agency should be  
taken seriously, whatever  
found is associated with  
it. A considerable group  
of scientific men had drawn  
ed the same conclusion,  
with no attempt to make  
adequate correlation of  
their data with those of  
the old & New Testament.  
The father of Wm James became  
an independent & critical  
Swedenborgian, after two  
years of study under Chas  
Hodge in the Seminary  
of Princeton. The grandfather

The deadly delusion of evolution as commonly held,  
was his chief obstacle - as with so many others.

was a Presbyterian Elder & wealthy merchant of Albany. This largely accounts for a strongly religious bent in James the psychologist, who after some years of close attention to the recent phenomena of spiritism, convincing him of the reality of an unseen realm of spirits, yet getting no satisfactory results, began to study the phenomena of religious experience in its higher forms. All his last years were passed in some what broken health, but had he lived in health a few years more, I believe we wd have become an evangelical & outspoken Christian. He inclined to believe in a God of limited power (like J. S. Mill) only to save the character of God. But his metaphysics was left unfinished & confused - while he was always longing to find God.

Wm. Corbridge, T. W. Rankin

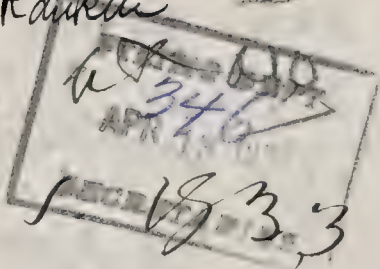


Henry W. Rankin

R. F. [unclear] Wanton

APR 3 1933

April



Ans.

Dear Mr. Speer

I enclose for return  
an article from the  
Church Times, London, on  
The Moral Side of China's  
Troubles. I have seen  
no article on China  
in late years that seems  
to me more significant  
than this - as a funda-  
mental explanation of  
Conditions in that  
great nation, preserved  
up to almost intact  
as no other nation ever

was from the days of  
Abraham to our own  
No other <sup>pagan</sup> nation has ever  
in the past exemplified  
so high an average  
morale as China, what  
ever its faults may be,  
The collapse of every  
former civilization has  
been due to moral  
Corruption, The trouble  
now may be largely traced  
to the prevailing infidel-  
ity among native stu-  
dents who in the last  
30 years have been  
educated in foreign  
Universities. The first  
generation of oriental  
students to be educated

Returned for the most  
great Christian. Now  
they have been wrecked  
on the dogma of evolution  
which makes the modern  
view of the world, though  
itself a wreck in the  
matter of evidence.

Yrs cordially

Henry W. Rankin

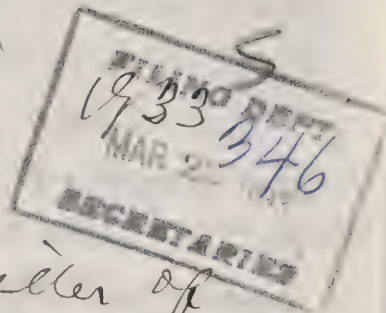
Please send me three  
more copies of your  
reply to Layman's Report

I hope you have read  
Dr McCarter's pamphlet  
on God Chao.



A W Rankin  
Spartan St.

March 3.



Dear Mr. Speer:

Your very kind letter of  
1<sup>st</sup> is at hand. I am glad you  
like the article in the March Re-  
cord, I am never well enough  
to prepare matter for print, I  
wrote that only as a letter to  
Mr. Fitt, provoked by the re-  
mark of Dr. Kirk that is quoted  
at the beginning. Informal letters  
I can sometimes dash off,  
tho' behind with many that  
are due, & so much behind  
with all my studies that I can  
hardly trust myself to write for  
publication. In mind I have  
work enough laid out to occu-  
py years more, tho' next Wednes-  
day will be my 62<sup>d</sup> anniversary.  
Never have I lost interest in  
the dreams of my youth - as  
Schiller says we never should -  
nor veered aside from the main

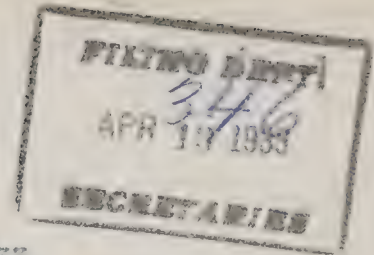
objective of my studies. But in  
trying to catch up - trying in vain  
- so many years have past.  
My digressions will not  
be relished by all readers, per-  
haps not by all the editorial Council.  
But I have followed that dispute  
since leaving the Academy in  
Andover, kept half through a  
medical course, before I stopped  
by illness, in hopes of a full pre-  
paration to handle that problem,  
& cover the physical preliminaries  
or metaphysics. Our conception  
of God & the soul is inevitably con-  
ditioned by our conception of  
the phenomenal order in Creation,  
of which God & the soul are only  
the noumenal implications,  
& phenomenal order in which  
the Creator is allowed no rights  
of eminent domain, & no place for  
the exercise of initiative as an  
integral part of the order, leaves  
pantheism as the only metaphysical  
alternative to Theism. The sciences  
have now for 70 years been commonly  
pursued on the basal assumption  
that God, if there be a God, never  
originates new conditions which

are not the ~~the~~ necessitated product  
& mathematical equivalent of old  
Conditions in nature itself. But  
such a idea is the first preroga-  
tive of personality, & indispen-  
sible means of self-revelation in a  
moral agent. The complete ex-  
clusion or non-recognition of di-  
vine initiative at suitable junc-  
tures for moral ends leaves the  
Causa causarum at best a cosmic  
mind with no moral character;  
& for many men of science today  
leaves that cause a cosmic  
dynamis without so much as a  
mind. Its sole function is to  
keep the world going on a stan-  
dardized plan which admits of no  
surprises that ~~meets~~ the modern  
magic cannot foresee & prepare  
for. But get a ce, it is a little  
while, & God will shake the heavens  
& the earth & the sea & the dry land  
& shall take all nations; & then the  
desire of all nations shall come,  
this house will be filled with  
glory.



Where then will be the desideria  
of his word! Every one of the  
six or eight lines of argument used  
to support the modern dogma  
has been refuted by men who them-  
selves are champions of the theory.  
Every one of them involves a gratuit-  
ous supposition, & all together  
rest on a major premise that  
is only a universal negative —  
nil super naturam. But if  
the whole universe exists for moral  
ends, as it did for Plato, Mel-  
son & the Hebrew prophets, all its <sup>in-</sup>finite  
ends are made subservient  
to its chief end, & presuppose an abso-  
lute Moral Agent, whose total  
perfection of nature & character is  
a corollary of his self-existence,  
which is the first perfection of all.  
Nothing can be added to or taken  
from a Being that exists <sup>all</sup> of itself as  
the ground of contingent being,  
Moreover the moral perfection of  
such a Being, if moral at all, will  
exemplify the moral view of all  
Christianity, in dealing with every  
creature — viz noblesse oblige

Cordially yr  
Henry W. Paulin



April 12, 1933  
Dictated 10Mh

Mr. Henry W<sup>2</sup> Rankin,  
Stanton, Vt.

My dear Mr. Rankin,

Your good letters of April 1st and 2nd have been received and I shared them with Mrs. Speer as we rode up to Lakeville last Friday. I am returning herewith the enclosures which you wish to have back. I was very glad to get both letters with the clippings which I made and of which I return the ones which you wish to have back. I was very glad also to see Dr. Hocking's letter with its postscript of kindly reference to me.

I think with you that the ultimate effect of the Report of the Appraisal Commission will be injurious to the point of view of those who wrote it and helpful to the evangelical cause but, meanwhile, it is furnishing a great deal of ammunition to the contending parties within the Christian faith if, indeed, all the positions of these contenders are really Christian, as one must believe that some of them are not.

With kind regards,

Very cordially yours,

RES:C.

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August 4, 1933  
(Dictated Aug. 1st)

Mr. Henry W. Rankin,  
Green Mountain Sanatorium,  
244 Pearl Street,  
Burlington, Vermont.

My dear Mr. Rankin:

It was a great pleasure and encouragement to get this morning your good letter of July 30th with its comment on the "Finality of Jesus Christ." I am more grateful that I can say for your commendation of the book and your approval of its argument.

It has been very interesting to note the reviews of the book and the revelation which they give of the attitudes which prevail among those who call themselves Christians today. Most of these happily endorse unqualifiedly the central thesis of the book, but there are a few - The Christian Century and other papers - which indicate that the writers have given up the New Testament conception of the singularity and exclusiveness of the Christian faith.

One of the greatest statements I have seen in regard to the fundamental abandonment of the evangelical position by modern liberalism is found in Brunner's "The Theology of Crisis."

I see Elliott now and then and find him very happy in his work at Mount Hermon.

With warm regard,

Your sincere friend,

RLS:AH



Consultants in Surgery:  
J. B. WHEELER, M. D.  
B. D. ADAMS, M. D.

# Green Mountain Sanatorium

Consultants in Medicine  
C. H. BEECHER, M. D.  
J. H. DOBBS, M. D.

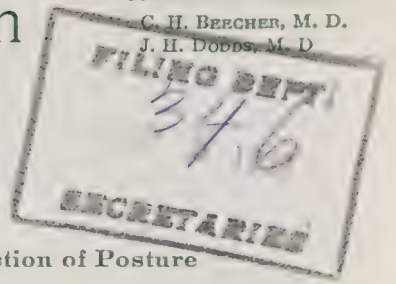
244 Pearl Street  
BURLINGTON, VERMONT

THOS. E. HAYS, Medical Director

TELEPHONE 1711

Complete Physical Therapy Department

Turkish and Russian Baths, Hydrotherapy, Massage, Vibratory Massage, Correction of Posture  
Diathermy, Ultra Violet Ray, Infra Red Ray, Radiant Light



1935 24

*Handwritten initials*

August 22, 1935

Dear Dr. Speer,

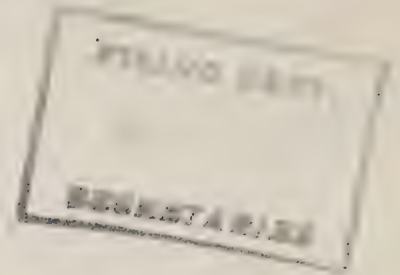
The remainder of this letter will show you that I am not new in Swanton, but staying for the present at this sanatorium, much crippled in my joints so that I write by the kind hand of my nurse. The importance of the enclosed letter you will see when I tell you about the writer. The Rev. V. F. Nicolle is the priest of the large Roman Catholic parish in Swanton where the population is half French. He is a devoted pastor and is much revered by the whole community. Born in Ireland, he was highly trained in the classics and has spent some years in the study of the book. He holds services in both French and English, conducts a large parochial school, besides practicing as a consultant for the priest-hood. I sent him a copy of your book believing it would strongly appeal to him, as the case has been. His approval has somewhat exceptional value. I shall tell him if you like it to you, when he has finished with the reading. I am sure he will like the book better than ever and will be ready to consent it to the journals and portions of his church. If you think it worth while to send me some typed or written copies of his letter, you may consider the original letter as a valuable document.

Sincerely yours,

Henry W. Parker

WILLIAM  
WALTER WRIGHT

August 19, 1953



My dear Mr. Rankins:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of the book "Finality of Jesus Christ," by Robert M. Speer, which was sent me free the Publisher with your compliments.

I am indeed very grateful for this favor, and while I have not time to read only a small portion of the book, I have found it very interesting, thorough in the treatment of the subject, fearless in the statement of the logical conclusions he draws from the texts of the Apostolic Fathers. It is no small compliment to say, but it deserves to be said, that a Catholic Theologian could not be more orthodox than Dr. Robert Speer.

There is in the world today a healthy interest in the person of Jesus Christ, which is bound to produce some fruit. The dominating influence of Higher Criticism, so called, is waning and we can only thank God for it. You remember the names that were so prominent 25 years ago, generally branded by Pope X as "Modernists." The brains of these "moderns" today except in addition whose names might be found in some Lutheran Institute. One being is exceedingly "modern": Our Lord Jesus Christ; because overlooking God Himself, He is the perfect and "final" Revelation of God to man.

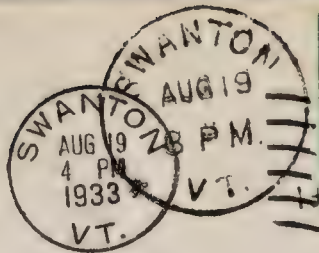
Wishing an opportunity when I can be able to show you my deep appreciation of your kindness, I pray that God's Blessing may be with you, and long to remain,

Gratefully yours,

(Signed) V. Nicolle.

200-N

The Fathers of St. Edmund  
Swanton, Vermont

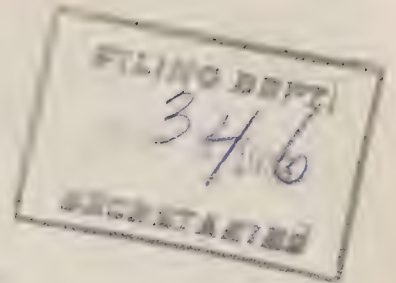


Mr. Harry W. Rankin  
Burlington  
~~Swanton~~

Greenmountain Sav.

H.





August 31, 1952  
(Dictated August 24)

Mr. Henry W. Rankin,  
Green Mountain Sanatorium  
244 Pearl Street  
Burlington, Vermont

My dear Mr. Rankin:

I am very much obliged indeed for your good letter of August 22nd and your thoughtful kindness in sending Father Nicolle's letter with regard to "The Finality of Jesus Christ." It is a great comfort to have such a letter from him and a still greater comfort for the favorable judgment which you expressed in your preceding letter.

I am enclosing herewith, as you request, three typewritten copies of Father Nicolle's letter.

Thank you also very much for the little pamphlet - "As to the Origin of Man."

I trust you are getting relief and physical re-enforcement in the Sanatorium and with warm regard, I am,

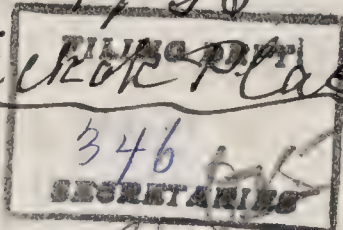
Your sincere friend,

RES:B

Dictated by Dr. Speer  
Signed in his absence

<sup>Raskin</sup>  
Burlington Vt. Dr. Spear  
Oct 5. 1933

19 Hickok Place



Dear Dr. Spear.

I enclose two letters recd from Dr. Raskin. I wrote him about George Bowen as a man whose experience of Christ was like that of Stanley Jones, D.L.M. & Brother Lawrence.

I told him that you were in possession of his MS journal or diary, & had hoped to write his biography. Also that you had some bound vols of the Bombay Guardian contain-  
ing many extracts from this journal, pubd in the last years of Bowen, describing his personal experience as an unreligious man & a Christian. I said that if you had abandoned hope of making the biography you might be willing to let Raskin handle the MS,

or at least so much of the  
Bower material as you  
had from me - that if you  
were willing to assist with  
this last I was willing to  
have it transferred to Dr  
Kochling. Of course Dr K. may  
not be ready to make im-  
mediate use of it; but he  
is a younger man than  
either of us, & if he should  
study that material I am  
sure it wd do him good &  
he could make a fruitful  
use of it. So as you please,  
I write him directly about  
it if you so please, or only  
to me.

I also enclose an esti-  
mate of your book written  
by the Unitarian Minister  
of Northf<sup>d</sup> to whom a  
copy of the bk was sent -



I did not ask his opinion  
of it - tho he may have gain-  
ed that impression from Sam-  
Walker who delivered it.  
I only said thro Walker that  
a friend, no longer resident  
in Northfld, asked he might  
find in it some doctrinal  
history of interest.

What you write as a history  
of the actual doctrine from  
the 1<sup>st</sup> century to date, Mr  
Conventales for dogma;  
it history of that dogma  
ought to make its own  
impression of value. In  
any case you may like to  
read this Unitarian reac-  
tion, & if you care to pre-  
serve a copy.

It has always struck me as  
a significant fact that D L M  
became so pronounced in his  
conviction of the deity of Christ

while his mother, to the extent  
of her life, as I judge from  
her own words to me, re-  
mained an Arian unitarian  
of the Channing type. She al-  
ways accepted the Gospels as  
authentic history - as did  
Channing, & like him was  
a woman of faith & prayer,  
& of unusually high charac-  
ter. I once asked D & M  
if he did not believe his  
mother was a truly Chris-  
tian woman during those 400  
in 1818 she brought him up to  
attend the Unitarian church  
& school. He answered emphati-  
cally that she certainly was.  
I do not think anyone could  
reasonably doubt the X<sup>p</sup> piety of  
Dr Channing, despite his decep-  
tive interpretation; nor that of  
Wiffilas, Arian missionary  
to the Goths. I suppose that  
until the day of Pentecost all  
the apostles were Unitarians  
pentecost was needed to show  
them the whole fact.



Happily we have these words  
of Paul: If any man think  
eth that he knoweth anything  
he knoweth it not yet as  
he ought to know. But if  
any man love God, the same  
is known of him.

Also these words of Christ:  
He that speaketh against the  
Son of Man - it shall be for-  
given him; but he that  
speaketh against the Holy Ghost  
it shall not be forgiven -

I quote from memory only  
having no literature with  
me here but the Gospel of  
John, & Gladstone's edn of  
the Psalter. I have been  
unwell - too head-tired - far  
more than very little read-  
ing. Since this last illness  
came upon me last March,  
when I was just 82, in age.  
But I did manage to read  
your bk, & since then Stanley  
Jones; Christ of the Nazareth.



T.C. King; Greatness & Simplicity  
of the Gospels, & Russell's  
For Sinners Only.  
Last Spring on February  
I read Fosdick's latest  
- Religion as I See It.  
If you are reading Fosdick  
first, & then King, & then  
Russell, & then S. Jones,  
would make an ascent,  
Culminating in Jones, from  
a religion based on the  
theory of evolution, thro  
an immature approach  
to the Gospel, the best mod-  
ernism has to offer, to  
the ~~the~~ vivid & irrefutable  
fact of regeneration thro faith  
in a divine Christ, & then  
the experience of Pentecost.  
For about 10 years I was  
in effect a Unitarian my  
self; & was then much helped  
by finding a strong bindi-  
cation of the ~~the~~ Gospel made

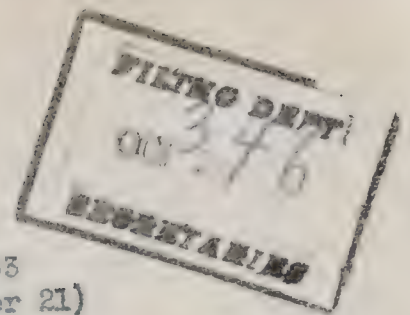
by three Unitarian Scholars  
of this Country - Ezra Abbot,  
H. P. Peabody & Edward Ham-  
ilton Sears - the last a Uni-  
tarian of Swedenborgian type  
who accept the deity of Christ.  
I then made an intensive study  
of the 4<sup>th</sup> Gospel, going through  
it seven times in immediate  
succession with close attention  
to every word & every figure  
of speech, until all the hard  
sayings that meant nothing  
to me at first became  
luminous, self evident  
as authentic sayings of Christ.  
There are no explicit claims  
in the 4<sup>th</sup> Gospel put into the  
mouth of Christ that are  
not implied in all three  
Synoptic narratives, &  
corroborated in all the  
Acts & Epistles. From first  
to last of the New Testament,  
the teaching is one & co-  
herent, & all its parts on



organically independent  
And this I think true of the  
whole Bible. The collection of  
writings by many pens in  
many times, forms an organ-  
ic unit of interdependent  
parts that can only be account-  
ed for by one mind back of  
all the writers. An isolated  
passage may be made to mean  
anything, but the analogy of parts  
demands that each passage  
be seen in the light of the  
whole. In that measure the  
whole becomes one luminous  
word of God.

I wonder if the North & South  
tees have met, & what has  
been done? Fry & Hubert  
have written me very encour-  
aging reports of progress, but  
before that meeting, Hubert  
seems entirely pleased with the  
new conditions & new prin-  
ciples. I wonder if W. H. is?  
We must have repeated some-  
what to beg Dicey's pardon.  
He will never beg mine  
thinking me the offender.  
None at the time had better  
right to make the protest I  
did. I had one else was there to  
do it.





October 25, 1933  
(Dictated October 21)

Mr. Henry W. Rankin,  
19 Hickok Place  
Burlington, Vt.

My dear Mr. Rankin:

Your good letter of October 5th with the two enclosed notes from Professor Hocking and the letter from Mr. Connor came some time ago and I would have acknowledged it before this but for constant absence at Syned meetings and other missionary conferences.

I have kept a copy of Mr. Connor's letter and return the original herewith, and also Dr. Hockings two notes.

With regard to the Bowen material I think you know that I did write out an abbreviated biographical sketch of Bowen, which was published by Revell in a volume entitled "Some Great Leaders in the World Movement." I have not overlooked the matter of an adequate study. I have had three missionary memoirs to work on of late - Bowen's and two others and have now the two others out of the way so that the Bowen task comes next. I laid all the material out during the vacation time which I had this year in September. It is going to be a long job to do the work adequately in view of the immense mass of material that ought to be gone over in "The Bombay Guardian." I have here the files of the Guardian from 1880 to 1890, inclusive, which you generously turned over to me, and the earlier files which came from Bishop Robinson are in the Missionary Research Library and I shall get them back to work them over in due time.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to get publishers to accept books, especially where they fear a limited interest in the subject, but the work ought to be done thoroughly and conscientiously in Bowen's case whether we can get a publisher easily or not.

I don't believe Dr. Hocking would have time to go over the mass of material, but if he cared to look over the sketch of Bowen to which I have referred, he might be able to judge whether he would like to see the original material. I have great affection for Dr. Hocking and should be glad to do anything I could to be of service to him.

You will have heard, of course, of Will Moody's death. I went up to the funeral with Mr. and Mrs. Bulkley and Mr. and Mrs. Baker and Mr. Fry and others. Will had been failing for some time and his death had been anticipated and now he knows even as he is known and is at rest.

With warm regard,

Your sincere friend,

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SECRETARIES

January 31, 1933

Mr. Henry W. Rankin,  
Swanton, Vermont

My dear Mr. Rankin:

I am returning herewith those newspaper clippings which you were good enough to send me which I judge you desire to have returned. Some of the others I gathered were not such as you cared to have back. Some of these that referred to Persia and Syria I have sent out to missionaries in those fields.

I was very grateful to get your good long letter. I trust that you are having pleasant winter weather in Vermont. I suppose there is a good deal more winter where you are than we have had thus far here.

I am sending you under separate cover a copy of Revell's reprint of the article which I wrote for the January issue of "The Missionary Review of the World." *Rec'd 1/31/33*

With warm regard,

Very cordially yours,

RCS:B



February 9, 1933

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Mr. Henry W. Rankin,  
Swanton, Vermont;

My dear Mr. Rankin:

Since writing you my last brief note I have been reading with greatest interest your letters of January 17th and 23rd and am sending you herewith under separate cover half a dozen copies of the booklet on the Laymen's Foreign Missions Inquiry Report, and shall be glad to send any other copies if you would like them.

*mailed  
2/10/33*

The pamphlet for the use of societies and classes studying the Report is not yet ready but the manuscript has gone to the printer and I will see that two copies of it are sent you as soon as they are received.

I have read Sokolsky's article and have known him for some years, having met him in Shanghai in 1926. You will be interested in a more recent article in "The Christian Century" by Canon Raven, taking issue with the theology of Dr. Hocking's report.

I am told that the last issue of "The Christian Century," which I do not regularly see, contains an article certifying to the fundamentalism of my theology. If the only two theologies to choose between are the theology of the Christian Century and the theology of fundamentalism, then I surely am a fundamentalist.

I am very grateful for all the help of your letters. If I had had some of the quotations which you give from Schelling and others I would certainly have made use of them in the Princeton lectures, which have now gone to the press.

With kind regard,

Very cordially yours,



Henry W. Rankin  
Burlington VT

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R. E. ~~Chapin~~ Nichols Place

DEC 27 1933

Dec 22, - Jan 1933

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My dear Mr. Speer;

You will see that I am no longer in Swanton, having been driven to a Sanatorium in this place last July by an attack of arthritis that cripples my joints, & for some time disabled me for holding a pen. Altho somewhat better, I am still in the hands of a nurse, with whom I have taken a small apartment at the above address, to have her constant attendance. Altho I see no prospect of health from any natural means, I was never more

eager to get busy; for I was  
never more clear in my own  
mind as to the program of  
Scripture for this distracted  
earth, nor so clear as to the  
religious bearings of philosophy.  
To learn these, & make them  
plain to others, have been my  
leading interest in study, ever  
since my school days at Phillips  
Andover '70. Tho' it was some  
years later before the heavy hand  
of God upon me brought me to ac-  
cept his terms of light & life, &  
break up all my plans, <sup>this</sup> led me  
to Northfield, where, in much bro-  
ken health, I learned much I'd  
never have learned so well  
elsewhere, but was so much in-  
terrupted in my studies that all  
I was ever able to accomplish  
was merely by the way; & never  
the main objective.

never to plain before,

yet that objective was never out of mind, & the experience gained in those years of close association with such a man as D.D. have only intensified, clarified & given new direction to the dreams of my youth. The opportunity of several prolonged visits to Princeton in recent years, to use its libraries, ~~have~~ <sup>has</sup> given me my bearings, & a point of departure, with the fruits of which I could fill twenty years of health if they were mine. Only a miracle of mercy could restore my life, but how I crave it!

Philosophy has always taken one of two directions - towards the living God, or away from him; & no philosophy is adequate unless Christian. In Dean Alford's version of Galatians Paul says "Let him that is taught in the word share with him that teacheth in all good things".



These words are a magna charta  
for a philosophy that is Christian  
& Paul himself raised no ob-  
jection to philosophy, but only  
to such as was antichristian,  
Indeed his own words in Acts  
17 & Ro. 1, plainly indicate the just  
demand for good philosophy, &  
a rational ca'ordination of all  
learning with what Schweigler  
calls "the central idea of Christi-  
anity that God became man to re-  
concile man to God"

Pascal says: "Who knows not  
Christ knows not the order of the  
world, knows not himself".  
At the bottom of all bad philos-  
ophy is a misconception of world  
order, such as now dominates  
modern science, & by that means  
modern theology. It is impossi-  
ble to dissociate our views of  
religion from our conception of  
nature & history.

The isolation of theology from the whole circle of fellowships of the sciences, for which theologians are as much to blame as men of science, is all of it due to misinterpretations of the world-order on the part no less of theologians than of men in natural science.

By the wiser men of science, as well as the wiser theologians, it was always believed, from Origen & Augustin to date, that when the misunderstandings were removed, not only would no discord remain between these departments of learning, but they would coalesce in rational & normal relations with each other.

It is the proper function of philosophy to effect such a synthesis of the sciences as will show the mutual bearings of each upon

all in order to arrive at a  
measurably adequate concep-  
tion of the noumenal ground  
from a measurably adequate  
conception of the phenomenal  
order. One is the vocational im-  
plication of the other. At this  
this result has always ~~been~~ been  
the hope of the best thinkers  
among men, the only man to  
show how it might be brought  
about was Shields of Princeton,  
who, beyond all others, has fully  
formulated the need & demand  
for this rational coördination,  
& at the same time shown a  
practicable method for its ac-  
complishment. He has been  
neglected by the old school theo-  
logians, by whom largely he was  
educated, because he was  
not dogmatic enough, & was  
willing to submit, problem-  
atically, accepted dogmas



to the critical questioning raised in the Sciences. He was neglected by men of science because he presumed to think that the dogmas of theology, & all the varied interpretations placed upon the data of Scripture - however imperfect these might be - should be given the benefit of the doubt, no less than equally imperfect theories of science, in a just comparison of the data involved. His treatise is not a closed system of philosophy, as many expected to find it, but an organon of research, in which the whole field of research, theological no less than secular, might receive fairer play in the investigation of theories, dogmas & data.

After effecting the best classification of human learning ever devised into six cardinal categories of fact in their natural

& logical order, he follows this comprehensive survey of data & the alternative interpretations proposed, with a similar survey & comparison of the three metaphysical problems to which all other problems are incidental, which problems when solved could only prove to be the necessary implications & presuppositions of the phenomenal facts found on the ascending levels of human experience.

In such a survey, justly conducted, the best attested facts in the whole of experience will be found to yield only such implications as would constitute a Christian view of God & the World - such as Owe has profitably, tho' inadequately epitomized in his volume of this title.

That an adequate Christian philosophy is the exigent need of theology is as clear to Caspar Hodge as it was to Fairbairn.



That a philosophy, not Christian, is not even cosmic in scope is obvious because it ignores the most important facts in the whole experience of mankind - facts that culminate in the fact of Christ, the phenomenal manifestation of the godhead, together with all the facts more immediately connected with Christ in the overt revelation leading up to him, & following his ascension in his subsequent influence on human history. From the Christian point of view the facts of redemption are as well attested as the facts of creation; while the most significant facts not only of redemption but also of creation are ignored, suppressed or grossly travestied in very much of modern science, modern philosophy, & the theology now based on these premises of these other two departments of learning.



It is only since my coming to  
this place - in bonds of affliction  
& iron - that I have had oppor-  
tunity to read the first & la-  
test books in philosophy of Dr  
Hocking. The last is a some-  
what elementary discussion of  
leading Types of Philosophy for  
his college classes, ending in a  
short summary of his own  
views, which are reflected  
thro' the whole volume. His meta-  
physics he designates as an ob-  
jective idealism that I am not  
prepared to controvert; believing  
myself that some form of ideal-  
ism is involved in them,  
tho' no form hitherto given us  
is adequate. What Hocking says  
of it deserves full consideration,  
tho' he does not seem to have  
fully worked it out. His books  
between these first & last I have  
not examined; but the first  
bk called: The Meaning of God  
in Human Experience - a promi-  
sing title with no agree result -

is a labored & desperate attempt  
to save theism out of the most  
adverse conditions of modern  
thought. Its major premise, in  
common with most recent  
works in science & philosophy,  
is that conception of world-or-  
der which is expressed in the  
great modern dogma of evolution,  
which, when consistently applied,  
admits no instance in the whole  
course of nature or human  
history of an initial agency or  
the part of a Creator, if there be  
one.

The only kind of God  
left us by this conception of  
world-order is at best the Cos-  
mic Mind of Spinoza de-  
void of moral character. This  
in effect is the fault found with  
it by Socrates who was glad to  
believe that the source of motion  
& order in the world is Mind;  
but, said Socrates, he doesn't  
tell us what purpose this Mind  
had in making such a Kosmos.  
A Mind capable of doing that  
must have had an end in view,



# Could only have had the best  
ends. In this modern theory all  
phenomena, all events, are the  
necessitated product & mathe-  
matical equivalent of natural  
antecedents alone, & nowhere ad-  
mit, as proceeding from the Power  
that keeps the world going, if the  
world is <sup>not</sup> self-moved, any origin-  
ative act whereby new conditions  
are produced which are not a  
necessitated result of old con-  
ditions already found in nature.  
Notwithstanding this an evolution-  
ist like Dr Hocking holds that  
the world only exists as an ex-  
pression of Absolute & Self Ex-  
istent Mind. The world has been  
both thought & willed into being,  
& tho' initiative (originality)  
is the first prerogative of a  
rational mind, it is not exer-  
cised by the Absolute unless only  
in the subjective consciousness  
of the ethnic & Christian Mystic.  
These may have, & must have an  
experimental contact with the  
World-soul. His discussion of



Mysticism - experimental religion  
 - is most uncritical, & confu-  
 ses things that differ widely; while  
 the wide range & scale of Chris-  
 tian experience, he seems much  
 less acquainted with than his  
 teacher Wm James. This piece  
 leaves us with no empirical evi-  
 dence of God's moral character  
 such as ordinary men can un-  
 derstand, & such as the overt  
 revelation from first to last,  
 conveys. It ignores the fact  
 that if God is the moral Abso-  
 lute, as he was for Socrates  
 & Plato, less on empirical than  
 on metaphysical grounds, then  
 on bringing into existence, by what-  
 ever method, finite moral agents,  
 his own proper offspring, it was  
 altogether incumbent on God to  
 make all the first advances  
 toward that mutual under-  
 standing & fellowship for which  
 man was obviously created;  
 & in which alone his own life is  
 fulfilled. The moral maxim of  
 "noblesse oblige" is as pertinent  
 to God as to man.

or tracking explicitly denies  
the overt revelation & primi-  
tive theism, & makes religion  
a natural development from  
animism to theism, through spiritism  
& polytheism, & glimpses here & there  
of Absolute Being, verified by the  
greater mystics - such as Buddha  
& Mohammed & Christ. He thinks all  
religion has advanced from low  
to high, & does not see that, so far  
as the history of religion can be  
traced, the advance has been the  
reverse of this - from high to low -  
where the Hebrew tradition is in-  
operative or replaced by traditions  
of men. In this case Christianity  
itself, so far as it depends on  
an overt revelation, must be  
fabulous. Those who begin  
by making a fable of Adam often  
end by making a fable of Christ.  
An extremely attenuated theism,  
a God who does not care enough  
for man to communicate with  
man in terms that Common



can understand, is all that modern science & philosophy leave with us, where the modern conception of the phenomenal order forms the major premise of reason. But if this major premise is wrong all the reasoning based upon it goes for nothing.

The procrustean bed of modern science was laid down an hundred years ago in the uniformitarian theory of Chas Lyell, who ~~first~~ applied it to the data of geology, followed by Darwin who applied it to the data of biology, & W. Spencer who applied it to the universe. Until an hundred years ago the fossils were usually attributed to the great Deluge, & as that fossils & strata are far better known than at that time, they can be far more easily explained by that event of panethnic tradition than by the labored, confused &



highly conjectural theories of recent geology. Yet as Scott of Princeton says, any textbook of geology becomes obsolete in ten years, & no existing science is more open to revision. Hocking says "there is no type of philosophy, which calls the truths of science into question"

(Lyles. 49) But the truths of science & the latest pronouncements of science & a popular vogue in science are not one & the same thing. Naïve confidence in science is just as common as a naïve confidence in any dogmatic interpretation of Scripture.

The Flood is one event of which the apostle Peter says that men willingly forget it - saying, with Lyle, that all things continue as they were since the foundation of the world, hence neither the Flood nor any future disaster of which it was a portent, need be taken seriously. But "As it was in the days of Noah so shall it be in the days of the Son of man".

Modern science is risking a great deal by its negative assumption ~~did not~~ that the Flood did not occur as a cosmic disaster. For if it did occur the great dogma of evolution will be as completely wrecked as the earth was wrecked by that event.

And modern science is risking very much more by building on the universal negative that nowhere in the course of nature & history does the Creator, if there be one, ever originate new conditions which are not the necessitated product of natural antecedents. Even the recent recognition of emergents does not tell us whether the natural antecedents are commensurate with the visible effect, as obviously



in many instances they are not.  
The literature of refutation grows  
stronger every year, to be com-  
monly ignored by Probago-  
nists of ~~of~~ the Dogma. But  
if the theory of evolution should  
be wrecked by the one fact of  
Noah's Flood, all the associa-  
ted sciences of geology & biolo-  
gy, & all the modern concep-  
tion of human history, & all  
the theological reconstruction  
based on this theory will fall  
like a house of cards.

The first business of philosophy  
is to make sure ~~sure~~ what the phe-  
nomenal order actually is  
before drawing its metaphysical  
implications; & we cannot  
make sure if we do not rechar-  
ge seriously with all the repre-  
sentative & well attested facts.  
Spinoza told Bayle that if he



(Spinoza) could believe the resurrex-  
tion of Lazarus to be a  
historical event. He wd throw  
his philosophy to the winds & ac-  
cept the common faith of Chris-  
tians. Arnold of Rugby, a  
critical historian, said the  
resurrection of Christ was  
the best attested fact of history,  
tho' David Strauss calls it a  
world-historical humbug.

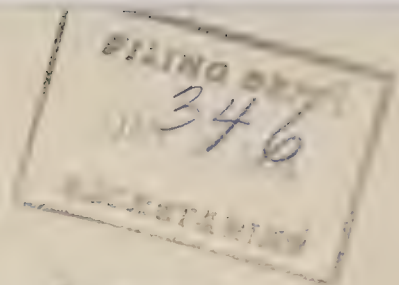
Hacking says many good things  
too good to go with his own theo-  
ry. He has many flashes of in-  
sight, & is convinced that  
theism is indispensable to the  
needs of man. But he has been  
sharred by the often Kant's often  
exposed & shattered criticisms  
of the theistic arguments, & dou-  
bly soared by the theory of evolu-  
tion which flouts all the canons  
of inductive logic & all the rules

of evidence that hold in Court,  
Its deficiency of empirical ev-  
idence is so manifold & mark-  
ed where needed most that  
the whole theory is left hanging  
in the air on the fragile sup-  
port of a universal negative,  
There is no modern delusion  
so destructive as this to Chris-  
tian faith, & no recent indict-  
ment of its fatal influence on  
religion more cogent than the  
terrible chapter on Darwin the  
Destroyer in the Life of Darwin  
by Samuel Bradford - him-  
self a lifelong victim of that  
delusion.

I am exceedingly glad that you  
have at last found time to  
handle George Bowen.

Cordially yrs  
Henry W. Rankin





December 30, 1933  
(Dict. Dec. 29)

Mr. Henry W. Rankin,  
19 Hickok Place,  
Burlington, Vermont.

My dear Mr. Rankin:

It was a great pleasure to get your good letter of December 22 with the enclosures which I read on my way back last evening from Upper Montclair where I had been spending the day with a little group which has been meeting for thirty years for a quiet day together during the Christmas holidays. There were only seven of us present yesterday, James and David McConaughy, Fred Goodman, Delavan Pierson, Dr. Mott, Mr. Cavert and myself. Dr. Harlan Beach and Mr. Henry Grant had passed away during the year, and Robert Wilder is in Norway. We had a rich day together with conference and prayer, trying to face the problems of our own lives and the general problem of Christ's cause in our world today.

I cannot thank you enough for your friendship and all the help that you have been and have given through the years. I wish that you might have the time and the strength to use all the material that you have and to put it forth under the great principles and convictions which are so clear to you.

I return herewith with gratitude the enclosures which you sent which you wished returned, and am sending you under separate cover copies of two addresses in which you may be interested. OK

Mrs. Speer and I spent Christmas at Mount Hermon with Elliott and his family. He is very happy in his work, and the Seminary seems to have in Miss Wilson a very admirable principal.

With warm regard and best wishes for the New Year -

Your sincere friend,

RES:AMW

Addresses enclosed

Dictated by Mr. Speer  
Signed in his absence



Henry Berke

Fairfax VA

Dec 20, 1933

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SECRETARIES

Dear Dr. Spear - Your very kind  
note is here with the welcome  
pamphlet on Yenahing, & its allu-  
sion to Dnyama'i Kimi. I shall  
be grateful to receive a copy of  
your address at the Woman's  
Service. The total lack of any  
positive result from the Grand  
jury inquest is certainly amazing.

Tom Baker, the notable Negro alum-  
nus of German, wrote me that "the  
mystery of iniquity is working still"  
what you say of it is, I think,  
all that, with our present light,  
can be said. I suppose that  
there has not been a century  
since the murder of Abel by his  
own brother which has not wit-  
nessed the repetition of that primi-  
val crime, which is explained  
in 1 John 3: 12-15.

The whole creation groaneth & travaileth,  
waiting for the adoption -

The redemption of the body - which Dr Pierson explained by the old Roman practice of publicly tearing a son when he assumed the toga virilis. The resurrection body, in which an exchange is made from the earthly to the heavenly body - tho' some, like Coleridge, believed that exchange is made immediately at death, while the public manifestation of Gods child - drawn to the world is deferred until they return with Christ.

2 Cor. ch. v. leaves ground for this interpretation. Are we to think, as stated in some creeds, that Christ carried into heaven his earthly body of flesh & blood, which do not inherit the Kingdom?

I think not. His resurrection body was identical with that on the cross; but on ascension when he passed from sight that body was changed in the twinkling of an eye to the celestial body in which before Incarnation he always was viewed by the

heavenly host - the body described  
in Heb. 1:3. Thus also will  
those be changed who remain  
alive at his coming.

Resurrection means our stand-  
ing up again, but not of that  
body which was sown; but  
God giveth the new body as he  
is pleased to do. In this case  
the spirits of the just made  
perfect, are not bodiless spir-  
its, & never were the angels bodi-  
less spirits, as commonly sup-  
posed, but live with Christ ar-  
raged in their celestial body  
made like the angels.

I believe the Scripture bears this  
happier sense, & the whole of  
Scripture means something  
more & better than we think.

~~When~~ The Bible has been made  
to bear the blame for all the  
misinterpretations put upon  
it, But when the misunder-  
standings are cleared up from  
Genesis to the Apocalypse, the



Whole universe of Scriptures will  
be found to agree with all  
properly attested facts otherwise  
learned, & will prove immea-  
surably more sublime than any  
conception found in science today.

Omne verum vero consonat.

This is the principle of Shields'  
philosophy which beyond all  
other books I ever read has  
bathed the universe for me  
in the glory of God.

We sorrow not as those who  
have no hope.

The Conflict of good & evil pow-  
ers described in Ephesians 6:12  
was described by Plato as "im-  
mortal conflict needing most won-  
derful care or vigilance, a battle  
of the universe, μάχη ἀθάνατος, a  
deathless war" that goes on for the  
souls of men. See in Taylor Lewis'  
Matchless Commentary on Plato's  
Laws BK X. the illuminating ex-  
pos. p 342 on this war between  
Christ & the Devil. Plato Contra  
Atheos. N.York, 1845. Harper Bros

What led to Satan's fall? I think  
it was jealousy of God the Son,  
followed up to this day.

The Eternal Son, the Logos, the vis-  
ible God, in his celestial glory,  
& Lucifer, Archangel, Son of the Morn-  
ing, but little less glorious in  
outward presence than the First  
Born of all creation, perhaps not  
fully understanding their differ-  
ence, became jealous of the prima-  
cy that was not his own. Hence  
came his fall; & where did he  
land, if not on this very earth  
of man? It would seem

as if W. R.'s jealousy of Elliott  
had been inherited by some  
favored teacher; for any  
other enemy I should not think  
he had — unless some dismissed  
culprit among <sup>recruit</sup> ~~the~~ students went  
off enraged. Either this, or mania,  
But God is his own interpreter,  
& in his own good time will  
make it plain, & avenge his  
own elect,



You see I have moved from  
Burlington to this Village  
20 miles distant, that my  
nurse might spend the winter  
with her mother, who, teaches  
school here, & has a house.

There is but one side walk  
a mile long for my daily ex-  
ercise, & I do not venture  
on the highway to dodge the cars.

In Burlington I had good  
walks in all directions, &  
the University Library & here  
I have not a dozen books of my  
own, & no public library, to  
serve my needs. But today

I called on a young Baptist  
Minister, graduate of Boston  
University & Newton Theological,  
who has a few good books,  
a much limited encyclopedia  
& \$600. a year for food &  
clothes & fuel. In weather like

this he can't afford to keep  
his study warm, & works in  
the dining room or kitchen.



The Methodist Minister does not impress me as a well educated man, nor as either settled or clear in his convictions - a weather vane in views, & no passion for souls. This is his first year in this place, & he speaks so loud & says so little that already his listeners are weary.

A R. Catholic Church without resident priest, completes the church opportunities of this small place.

But I am not well enough to sit thro a public service in any church. My days are so exactly alike that without a calendar always in sight, I cannot remember one from another.

As I have to spend 12 hours in bed, thro fevers, sleeping 6, & have three treatments & two walks a day, & eyes getting bad, I can do but little reading, & yet am trying to compose

A Primer of Philosophy, for those who think there is no God, or that he never can be known.

I would like to examine & own  
half dozen books on the throust  
~~re~~ systems of Brit Britain in  
the last 50 years; but cant  
see the books to know their titles  
or what I want to use.

Yrs Cordially,

Henry W Rankin